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WEALTH AND PROGRESS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES.

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THE

WEALTH AND PROGRESS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES

1896-7.

BY

T. A. COGHLAN,

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

TENTH ISSUE.

Sydney:
WILLIAM APPLEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PHILLIP-STREET.
1897.

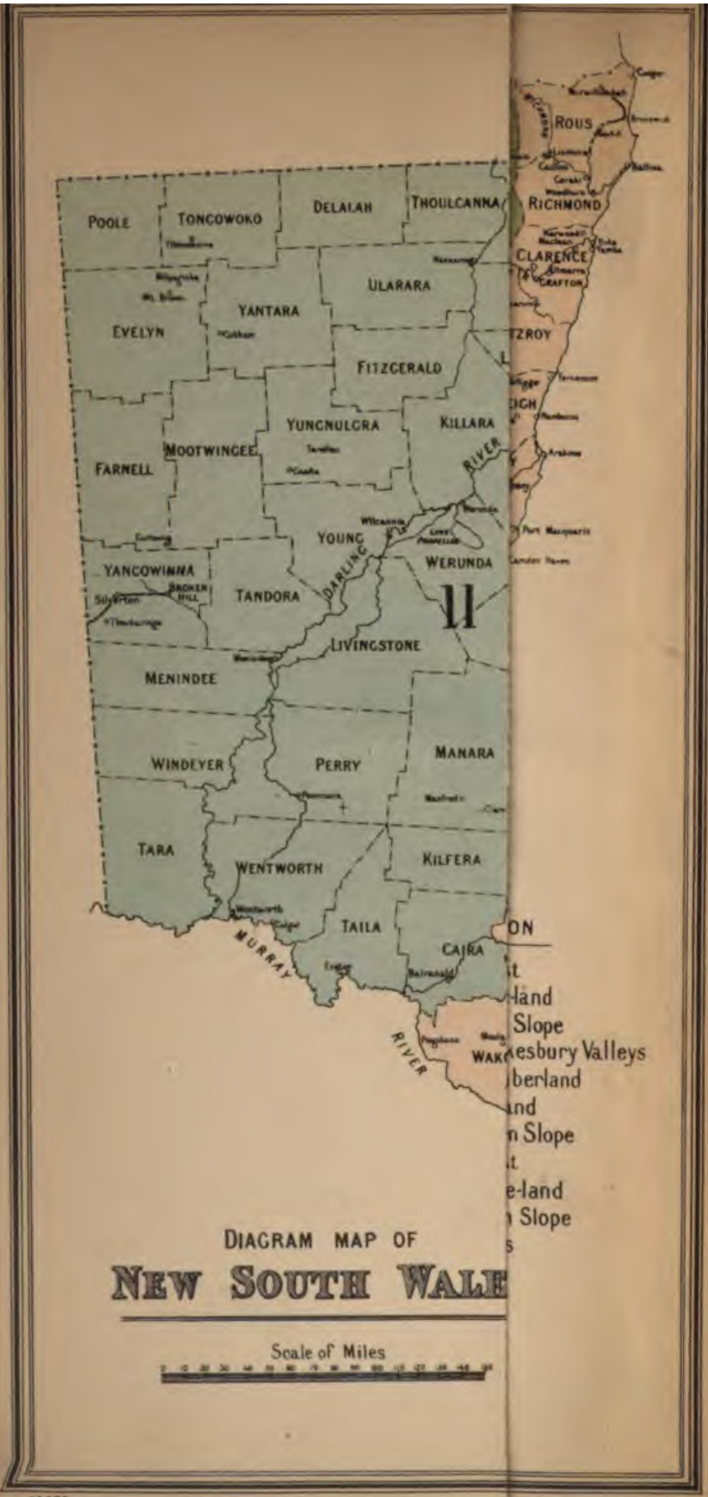

DIAGRAM MAP OF

NEW SOUTH WALE

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PREFACE.

In preparing a work of this kind a difficulty is alv experienced in making it interesting to persons outside Colony who are not concerned about the details of 1 affairs, and at the same time useful to those who are enga in the active life of the Colony and who require such det It is believed that the difficulty has been fairly met. E care has been taken to correct such errors as may have pa through previous editions, and to keep this issue free 1 them. If, however, any such should be discovered, it w be deemed a favour if their nature and position were poi out.

It has been thought desirable, except in special case limit the period covered by the tables to ten years. Sh more detailed figures be required they will be found in "Statistical Register." The necessity of comparing progress of New South Wales with that of the other Colo except on the more important points, is obviated by publication of "The Seven Colonies of Australasia," w deals with the Colonies as a whole, as well as with individual resources.

Sydney, 10*th December*, 1897.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH.

IT is impossible to say who were the first discoverers of Australi although there is evidence that the Chinese had some knowledge the continent as far back as the Thirteenth Century. The Malays al would seem to have been acquainted with the northern coast; while Mar Polo, who visited the East at the close of the Thirteenth Century, mak reference to the reputed existence of a great southern continent. The is in existence a map, dedicated to Henry the Eighth of England, which a large southern land is shown, and the tradition of a Ter Australis appears to have been current for a long period before it ente into authentic history.

In 1503, a French navigator named Binot Paulmyer, Sieur Gonneville, was blown out of his course, and landed on a large islan which was claimed to be the great southern land of tradition, althoug Flinders and other authorities are inclined to think that it must hav been Madagascar. The Portuguese also advance claims to be the fir discoverers of Australia, but so far the evidence cannot be said establish their pretensions. As early as 1598, Wytfliet describes th Australis Terra as the most southern of all lands, and proceeds to gi some circumstantial particulars respecting its geographical relation New Guinea, venturing the opinion that, were it thoroughly explore it would be regarded as a fifth part of the world.

Early in the Seventeenth Century, Philip the Third of Spain sent o an expedition from Callao, in Peru, for the purpose of searching for southern continent. The little fleet comprised three vessels, with th Portuguese pilot, De Quiros, as navigator, and De Torres as admiral, military commander. They left Callao on the 21st December, 1605, an in the following year discovered the island now known as Espiritu Sant one of the New Hebrides Group, which De Quiros, under the impressio that it was indeed the land of which he was in search, named "*L Austrialia del Espiritu Santo.*" Sickness and discontent led to a mutin on De Quiros' vessel, and the crew, overpowering their officers durin the night, forced the captain to navigate his ship to Mexico. Th abandoned by his consort, De Torres, compelled to bear up for th Philippines to refit, discovered and sailed through the strait that bea his name, and may even have caught a glimpse of the northern of the Australian Continent. His discovery was not, however, r known until 1792, when Dalrymple rescued his name from obli bestowing it upon the passage which separates New Guinea Australia. De Quiros returned to Spain to re-engage in the of petitioning the king to despatch an expedition for the purpo prosecuting the discovery of the Terra Australis. He was fi successful in his petitions, but died before accomplishing his work, was buried in an unknown grave in Panama, never being privi to set his foot upon the continent the discovery of which was th spiration of his life.

During the same year in which De Torres sailed through the destined to make him famous, a little Dutch vessel called the Duy or dove, set sail from Bantam, in Java, on a voyage of discovery. ship entered the Gulf of Carpentaria, and sailed south as far as Keerweer, or turn-again. Here some of the crew landed, but attacked by natives, made no attempt to explore the country. In Dirk Hartog discovered the island bearing his name. In 162 Leeuwin, or lioness, made some discoveries on the south-west and during the following year the yachts Pera and Arnhem, exp the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Arnhem Land, a portion Northern Territory, still appears on many maps as a memento o voyage. Among other early Dutch discoverers were Van Edels; in 1629, in the Gulf of Carpentaria; Nuyts, in the Gulde Zee along the southern coast, which he called, after himself, Nuyts L De Witt; and Pelsart, in the Batavia. Pelsart was wrecked on H man's Abrolhos; his crew mutinied, and he and his party suffered gr from want of water. The record of his voyage is interesting from fact that he was the first to carry back to Europe an authentic acc of the western coast of Australia, which he described in any but fa able terms. In 1642, Abel Janszen Tasman took up the work of D discovery, and added Tasmania (long known as Van Diemen's L and New Zealand to the geographical knowledge of the day. He sequently made a voyage to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and examine northern coast.

The first English navigator to sight the Australian continent William Dampier, who made a visit to these shores in 1688, as s cargo of the Cygnet, a trader, whose crew had turned buccaneers. his return to England he published an account of his voyage, w resulted in his being sent out in the Roebuck in 1699 to further p cute his discoveries. To him we owe the exploration of the coas about 900 miles—from Shark Bay to Dampier's Archipelago, and th to Roebuck Bay. He appears to have landed in several places in se of water. His account of the country was quite as unfavourab Pelsart's. He described it as barren and sterile, and almost devo animals, the only one of any importance somewhat resembling a raco a strange creature, which advanced by great bounds or leaps instead of walking, using only its hind legs, and covering 12 or 15 feet at a time. This is the first notice of the kangaroo which has come down to us. Between Dampier's first and second voyage Vlamingh visited the south-west coast, and entered and named the Swan River, so called from the number of black swans in the locality.

The great voyage of James Cook, in 1769-70, was primarily undertaken for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus, but he was also expressly commissioned to ascertain "whether the unexplored part of the Southern Hemisphere be only an immense mass of water, or contain another continent." The vessel fitted out for the voyage was a small craft of 320 tons, carrying twenty-two guns. She was built originally for the coal service, with a view rather to strength than to speed. Chosen by Cook himself, she was renamed the Endeavour, in allusion to the great work which her commander was setting out to achieve. Mr. Charles Green was commissioned to conduct the astronomical observations, and Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander were appointed botanists to the expedition. After successfully observing the transit from the island of Tahiti, or Otaheite, as Cook wrote it, the Endeavour's head was turned south, and then north-west, beating about the Pacific in search of the eastern coast of the great continent whose western shores had been so long known to the Dutch. Circumnavigating and minutely surveying New Zealand, Cook then stood due west, in order to carry out the instructions given him.

After a voyage of nearly three weeks, Cook, on the 19th April, 1770, sighted the eastern coast of Australia, at a point which he named after his first lieutenant, who discovered it, Point Hicks. This he placed in latitude 38° south and longitude 148° 50′ east; but no such headland has since been identified, and it is thought Cook must have been deceived in some manner by the sandhills of the Ninety-mile Beach. Four leagues farther to the north-east he discovered and named Ram Head, but the first important point observed was a bare and sandy headland, to which he gave the name of Cape Howe.

After passing and naming Mount Dromedary, the Pigeon House, Point Upright, Cape St. George, and Red Point, Botany Bay was discovered on the 28th April, 1770, and as it appeared to offer a suitable anchorage, the Endeavour entered the bay and dropped anchor. The ship brought-to opposite a group of natives, who were cooking over a fire. Cook and his crew, unacquainted with the character of the Australian aborigines, were not a little astonished that these natives took no notice of them or their proceedings. Even the splash of the anchor in the water, and the noise of the cable running out through the hawse hole, in no way disturbed them at their occupation, or caused them to evince the slightest curiosity. But as the captain of the Endeavour ordered out the pinnace and prepared to land, the natives threw off their nonchalance; for on the boat approaching the shore, two men, each armed with a bundle of spears, presented themselves on a projecting rock and made threatening signs to the strangers. It is interesting to note that the ingenious "wommera," or throwing-stick, which is peculiar to Australia, was first observed on this occasion. As the men were evidently determined to oppose any attempt at landing, a musket was discharged between them, in the hope that they would be frightened by the noise, but it produced no effect beyond causing one of them to drop his bundle of spears, of which, however, he immediately repossessed himself, and with his comrade resumed the same menacing attitude. At last one cast a stone towards the boat, which earned him a charge of small shot in the leg. Nothing daunted, the two ran back into the bush, and presently returned furnished with shields made of bark, with which to protect themselves from the firearms of the crew. Such intrepidity is certainly worthy of passing notice. Unlike the American Indians, who supposed Columbus and his crew to be supernatural beings, and their ships in some way endowed with life, and who were thrown into convulsions of terror by the first discharge of firearms which they witnessed, these Australians were neither excited to wonder by the ship, nor overawed by the superior number and unknown weapons of the strangers. Cook examined the bay in the pinnace, and landed several times; but by no endeavour could he induce the natives to hold any friendly communication with him. The well-known circumstance of the great variety of new plants here obtained, from which Botany Bay derives its name, should not be passed over. Before quitting the bay the ceremony was performed of hoisting the Union Jack, first on the south shore, and then near the north head, formal possession of the territory being thus taken for the British Crown. During the sojourn in Botany Bay the crew had to perform the painful duty of burying a comrade—a seaman named Forby Sutherland, who was in all probability the first British subject whose body was committed to Australian soil.

After leaving Botany Bay, Cook sailed northward. He saw and named Port Jackson, but forebore to enter the finest natural harbour in Australia. Broken Bay and other inlets, and several headlands, were also seen and named, but the vessel did not come to an anchor till Moreton Bay was reached, although the wind prevented Cook from entering this harbour. Still sailing northward, taking notes as he proceeded for a rough chart of the coast, and landing at Bustard and Keppel Bays and the Bay of Inlets, Cook passed over 1,300 miles without the occurrence of any event worthy of being chronicled, till suddenly one night at 10 o'clock the water was found to shoal, without any sign of breakers or land. While Cook was speculating on the cause of this phenomenon, and was in the act of ordering out the boats to take soundings, the Endeavour struck heavily, and fell over so much that the guns, spare cables, and other heavy gear had at once to be thrown overboard to lighten the ship. As day broke, attempts were made to float the vessel off with the morning tide; but these were unsuccessful. The water was rising so rapidly in the hold that with four pumps constantly going the crew could hardly keep it in check. At length one of the midshipmen suggested the device of "fothering," which he had seen practised in the West Indies. This consists in passing a sail, attached to cords, and charged with oakum, wool, and other things, under the vessel's keel, in such a manner that the suction of the leak may draw the canvas into the aperture, and thus partially stop the vent. This was performed with great success, and the vessel was floated off with the evening tide. The land was soon after made, near the mouth of a small stream, which Cook called, after the ship, the Endeavour River. A headland close by he named Cape Tribulation. The ship was steered into the river, and there careened and thoroughly repaired. Cook having completed the survey of the east coast, to which he gave the name of New South Wales, sighted and named Cape York, the northernmost point of Australia, and took final possession of his discoveries from latitude 38° south northward to latitude 10½° south, on a spot which he named Possession Island, thence returning to England by way of Torres Straits and the Indian Ocean.

The favourable reports brought to England by the Endeavour on her return, and the graphic account of his voyage published by Cook, together with the fact that Great Britain had just lost her North American colonies by their successful rebellion, turned all eyes to Australia, or New Holland, as it continued to be called. The difficulty of disposing of their criminal population was only one of the causes which determined the Government of the day to found the colony of New South Wales; for it will become evident, as this narrative proceeds, that all concerned felt they were engaged in founding a new home in the Southern Hemisphere for the British people, and that visions of even greater progress than has yet been attained filled the minds, not only of Viscount Sydney and Governor Phillip, but also of many reflecting persons in the colony itself after it had been established. The truth of this view is amply demonstrated by the testimony of several contemporary writers.

It was in the early part of 1787 that Viscount Sydney, Secretary of State for the Colonies, determined to plant a colony in New South Wales, and by May of that year the First Fleet had been assembled. It consisted of the 20-gun frigate Sirius, the armed tender Supply, three storeships—the Golden Grove, Fishburn, and Borradale; and six transports—the Alexander, Scarborough, Lady Penrhyn, Prince of Wales, Friendship, and Charlotte. The largest of these vessels measured only 450 tons, and the smallest was no more than 270 tons. On board of the six transports were packed, according to the statement made by Collins in his history, no fewer than 564 men and 192 women, all prisoners who had been sentenced to expatriation. There were also carried 168 marines and 10 officers, commissioned and non-commissioned. These, with 5 medical men, a few mechanics, and 40 women—wives of marines—together with 13 children—the offspring of the convicts—

made up the total number of persons despatched to found the colony. Captain Phillip, R.N., was placed in command of the expedition, and given a commission as Governor and Captain-General o New South Wales. Second in command was Captain John Hunter of the Sirius, and Mr. David Collins accompanied the expedition a Judge-Advocate.

The fleet sailed in May, 1787, and after calling at Rio Janeiro, arrived in Botany Bay in the beginning of January, 1788. A cursory examination convinced Captain Phillip that a more unsuitable site for a new settlement could hardly have been chosen than the shores of this inlet Despite the profusion of new plants which had so delighted Banks and Solander, the neighbourhood of Botany Bay is by no means fertile. The scarcity of good water was a further disadvantage, while the bay itself was so shallow as to forbid the ships approaching the shore, to do which woul have necessitated the erection of piers and jetties of great length. I was, besides, exposed to the full swell of the Pacific, without bays, creeks or coves to afford shelter. The Governor accordingly determined to explore the coast in search of a more suitable site for the settlement After proceeding with three of the boats about nine miles, he foun himself abreast of the entrance to Port Jackson, which Cook had only seen from a distance, and had marked on his chart as a harbour fo boats. Undeterred by this, Phillip rounded the South Head, and soo saw opening before him the whole expanse of one of the finest harbour in the world. For miles to the west stretched the peaceful waters o Port Jackson, which must have delighted the minds of the explorers disheartened as they had been by the appearance and surroundings o Botany Bay. In place of the stunted scrub which formed the greate part of the vegetation of that locality, Port Jackson was found to b surrounded by a thick forest of noble trees, which extended to the water' edge, and promised an abundant supply of timber for building purposes In place of the open roadstead at Botany, a countless succession of bay and inlets opened on the astonished gaze of the hardy navigators as the proceeded up the harbour. Deep water was found to extend to th very base of the rocks, thus obviating any necessity for expensiv wharves, the construction of which must have occupied the little community for many months, to the neglect of more immediately pressin wants.

The Governor's choice of the site of the present metropolis o Australasia was determined by the fact that, about six miles from th entrance, an apparently perennial stream of the purest water was foun discharging itself into a beautiful sandy inlet, which was named Sydne Cove, in honour of the statesman under whose auspices the enterpris had been undertaken. Before finally deciding on this site, Captai Phillip spent three days in exploring the various bays, but was confirme in his original choice by the fact that no such stream of water had bee found elsewhere, though in other respects numerous positions equall suitable presented themselves.

Returning immediately to Botany, preparations were made for bringing the colony round to Sydney Cove, when, as the fleet was standing out of the bay, an interesting incident occurred—two strange vessels, evidently making for the entrance, were discerned in the offing. Captain Phillip went out in the Supply to meet them, and they proved to be a French exploring party under the command of Jean François Galaup, Comte de la Pérouse, their vessels being the frigates Astrolabe and Boussole. After an interchange of courtesies, the French were left to refresh and refit in Botany Bay. They stayed there till March, 1788, and buried one of their company on shore—Father Le Receveur, of the Order of St. Francis, the naturalist of the expedition, who died of wounds received in an encounter with the natives of the South Seas. His tomb is still extant at La Pérouse, near the north head of Botany Bay, where also a monument was placed, in the year 1825, to the memory of the commander of the expedition, who was shipwrecked and whose crew were murdered at Vanikoro, one of the Santa Cruz Islands. The monument was erected by Messrs. De Bougainville and Ducampier, commanding the French war vessels Thétis and Espérance, then lying in Port Jackson.

On Captain Phillip's arrival in Sydney Harbour, on the memorable 26th January, 1788, the ships anchored in the Cove, and preparations were at once made for landing the colonists. The clearing of the ground in the vicinity, and along the banks of the little stream, was commenced, and when a sufficient space had thus been obtained a flagstaff was erected, and the Union Jack run up. After the firing of three volleys by the marines, the Governor read his commission, and addressed words of counsel, warning, and encouragement to the prisoners, the ceremony closing with general festivity. Arduous labour succeeded this scene, for it was well understood that unless the settlers could raise supplies for themselves, the existence of the colony would be precarious, as the store of provisions in their possession was calculated to last only a very short time.

Accordingly, ground was cleared at the head of Farm Cove, adjoining the settlement, and an attempt was made to raise wheat, but time has shown that the soil in the immediate neighbourhood of Sydney is not suited to the cultivation of this cereal, and even if a good crop had been obtained the colonists must have starved while it was maturing. No food worth mentioning was procured from the land, and the little community was on the brink of starvation, when a ship arrived with another batch of colonists, but without stores. This brought matters to a climax, whereupon Governor Phillip sent the Sirius to the Cape Colony, and the Supply to Batavia, to procure provisions, which, however, could only be obtained in insufficient quantity, so that in a few weeks after the return of these vessels the state of affairs became as bad as before, and starvation again stared the colony in the face. Under these circumstances, everyone, including the Governor himself, was placed on short allowance, and even the sheep and cattle which had been reserved for breeding purposes were killed for food. In this aspect of affairs the Governor bethought himself of Norfolk Island, whither, shortly after his arrival, he had sent Lieutenant Philip Gidley King, of the Sirius, to establish a branch colony. A detachment of 200 convicts, with a guard of 70 marines, was, therefore, despatched to the island. On arrival, it was found that King and his men had cleared a considerable portion of land, and had succeeded in raising an abundant crop. But the Sirius, in which the new detachment sailed, was wrecked on a reef off the island, so that no supplies were procured thence at that time.

When the prospects of the settlement at Sydney Cove had reached their gloomiest, three store-ships arrived, and snatched the colony from the very brink of destruction by famine. This tided over the difficulty, and so great a privation of food was never again experienced. Fresh difficulties, however, beset the settlers by the arrival of some ship-loads of prisoners, most of whom were in a sick and dying condition. Of 1,700 men and women who had been embarked, 200 died on the voyage, and several hundred more were found to be *in extremis* on arrival. In the midst of these horrors, the Governor's responsibilities were further increased by the attempts of some of the prisoners to escape from the colony. Some took to the bush; others stole boats and put to sea, intending to reach the Dutch settlements in the Indian Ocean. Daring as this latter attempt may appear, it was in once instance successful: two men and a woman, in an open boat, succeeded in reaching Timor, where they were imprisoned and sent back to Sydney on the first opportunity. Numerous efforts were made to escape from the settlement by land, the ignorance of the convicts being such that many imagined they could walk overland to China, and not a few perished in the bush while making the attempt.

Governor Phillip's health gave way under the cares and anxieties of his office, and in 1792 he returned to England, where he received a pension in reward for his exertions in founding the colony, and died at an advanced age. Major Grose and Captain Paterson, officers in charge of the military, administered the government till the arrival of his successor. In 1795, Captain Hunter, who after the loss of the Sirius had gone to England, arrived as the second Governor. With the arrival of Governor Hunter affairs took a new turn. He brought out a number of free settlers, mostly farming men; and some fine alluvial land having been discovered on the banks of the Hawkesbury, farming was successfully begun, and in a short time more than 6,000 acres were under crops of wheat and maize. The attempts to introduce cattle were for a time unsuccessful, but in 1796 a herd of 60 head was discovered at the "Cowpastures," near Camden. These were the descendants of some cattle which had strayed from the settlement several years before. Though their quality was found to have deteriorated, they proved a very welcome addition to the live stock of the settlement. In 1800, when Captain Hunter left the colony, the population was over 6,000: attempts had been made to penetrate into the interior, but without success; the

Hunter River and its coal-mines had been discovered, and the mines were being worked by a detachment of prisoners; the city of Newcastle had been founded; and the New South Wales Corps, a military body enlisted for service in the colony (the first detachments of which had arrived in 1790), formed an efficient garrison and guard over the more refractory prisoners. During Governor Hunter's term of office, Bass and Flinders minutely examined the coast to the south of Sydney, in a small boat only 9 feet over all; and the former discovered the strait which bears his name, thus proving Tasmania to be an island, and not the southern extremity of the continent, as previously supposed.

The next Governor was Philip Gidley King, previously mentioned as the Lieutenant of the Sirius who had been despatched by Phillip to found a settlement on Norfolk Island. Though all fears of famine had now disappeared, Governor King soon found himself involved in difficulties of a scarcely less distressing nature. To explain these it will be necessary to describe the constitution of the New South Wales Corps. This body had been specially raised for service in the colony, the officers of the King's regiments not unnaturally objecting to be sent to such a far distant settlement, where they knew that they would find no intellectual occupation, and where their sole work would consist in acting as a prison guard, or, at most, in making a few raids, in alleged reprisals for the misdeeds of the ill-used, and often sorely provoked, aborigines. As a military guard of some sort was necessary, this corps was raised, and a few enterprising spirits—many of whom had never served before—were induced to accept commissions, with the view of obtaining grants of land and making their fortunes in the colony. Unfortunately, the readiest means to this end was found in the import trade, and as rum was in great request, the officers of the New South Wales Corps became importers of that spirit in large quantities—and even set up private stills in defiance of a Government order. Governor King was specially commissioned to put a stop to the traffic, a full account of which will be found in another part of this volume. King proceeded to act with great promptitude, and his vigorous proceedings in sending away thousands of gallons of spirits and wine created a storm of indignation among the importers, and greatly embittered the officers of the New South Wales Corps against the Government.

During King's time, a serious mutiny occurred among the prisoners. The more tractable of these were "assigned" as servants to the settlers, and engaged in working the farms and squattages; but the more reckless characters, made desperate in many instances by the treatment they received, were worked on the roads, in chain-gangs. A party of over 300 of these chain-gang men was employed at Castlehill, on the road between Parramatta and Windsor. These men, taking advantage of the small number of their guard, abandoned their work, managed to remove their irons, seized some firearms, and marched towards the Hawkesbury, expecting to be reinforced by the men employed in the neighbourhood.

But Major Johnston, second in command of the New South Wales Corps, pursued them with only twenty men, and on coming up with them, charged with such precipitation that the mutineers were fain to lay down their arms and beg for mercy. Three or four of the ringleaders were afterwards hanged, but the rest were permitted to return to their duty on undertaking to be of good conduct for the future.

An event of the utmost importance to the colony also took place under the administration of Governor King. This was the initiation of wool-growing. John Macarthur, who had held a commission as captain in the New South Wales Corps, procured, with great trouble and by much perseverance, some Spanish merinos, and having obtained a grant of 10,000 acres of land across the Cowpasture River, which estate he named "Camden," commenced the growth of wool on a large scale. In a short time his enterprise showed every sign of a successful issue, to the great benefit of the colony generally, and to his own personal advantage. In spite of these evident signs of material progress, however, Governor King was so worn out with the conflicts caused by his endeavours to suppress the rum traffic, and was in such constant collision with the officers of the New South Wales Corps on that account, that he seized the first opportunity of leaving the colony, and was succeeded in the Government, in 1806, by William Bligh, a post-captain in the Navy.

Governor Bligh was a distinguished naval officer. His wonderful voyage after the Mutiny of the Bounty had caused the Imperial Government to entertain a high opinion of his conduct, as well as of his courage and determination. His services were numerous, and he had been publicly thanked by Lord Nelson, after the bombardment of Copenhagen, for the gallantry and skill which he displayed on that occasion. Hence he was selected as a fit man to crush the clique of officers engaged in the rum traffic, and to purify official life in the colony. King had been only partially successful in this direction, and the British Government gave the strictest injunctions to Captain Bligh to stop the trade in spirits. Accordingly, in February, 1807, he issued the following general order:—"His Excellency the Governor laments to find by his late visit through the colony that the most calamitous evils have been produced by persons bartering, or paying, spirits for grain of all kinds, and the necessaries of life in general, and to labourers for their hire; such proceedings depressing the industrious and depriving the settlers of their comforts. In order, therefore, to remedy these grievous complaints, and to relieve the inhabitants, who have suffered by the traffic, he feels it his duty to put a total stop to this barter in future, and to prohibit the exchange of spirits or other liquors as payment for grain, animal food, wearing apparel, or any other commodity whatsoever, to all descriptions of persons in the colony and its dependencies."

This order is in itself sufficient to indicate to what fearful lengths the "rum currency" had been carried. Naturally it would have bee expected that all respectable people, the military and ex-military especially, would have joined the Governor heart and soul in his efforts to put a stop to the traffic, and induce a more healthy state of things. Such, however, was not the case; and the struggle in respect to the illicit trade continued throughout the whole period of Bligh's governorship.

Other matters embittered the relations between the Governor and the colonists, and in these Bligh was not so obviously in the right as in his attempt to put down the contraband traffic in spirits. The contest reached its climax on the arrest of John Macarthur, whose efforts to promote the growth of wool have been alluded to. That gentleman had become specially obnoxious to the Governor; and, as he was also the chief trader in the community, he was selected as a scapegoat for the sins of the rest. Matters were brought to a crisis in the following manner, though the immediate circumstances of his prosecution had no direct connection with the barter of spirits. Mr. Macarthur had been part owner of a vessel that traded to Tahiti for salt pork and other articles for the supply of the colony. While this vessel was lying in Port Jackson, he received a summons from Mr. Atkins, the Judge-Advocate—that is, Chief Justice—to appear before him to answer to a complaint on the part of the crew of his vessel, of withholding from them their wages, in consequence of which they alleged that they had been compelled to break through the port regulations by coming ashore without special order. Macarthur returned an answer in writing, explanatory of his conduct in the matter, but did not obey the summons by appearing in person. This was construed to be an act of contumacy, which some attributed to a feeling of personal resentment towards the Governor, engendered by the action of the latter against the "rum currency."

A warrant was accordingly issued for Macarthur's apprehension, and on the 25th January, 1808, he was brought before the Judge-Advocate and a military jury of six, consisting of officers of the New South Wales Corps—such being at the time the composition of the Supreme Court of the colony. Mr. Macarthur objected to the Judge-Advocate sitting on his trial, on the ground that he bore him personal ill-feeling, for which assertion it would appear that there was some foundation, especially as Atkins' adviser throughout the whole proceedings was one George Crossley, a transported attorney, who is believed to have been an enemy of Macarthur. Although the defendant's objection was sustained by the six military officers, the Judge-Advocate refused to abdicate his position, and the Governor declined to supersede him—for which, indeed, he had no authority, Atkins having been appointed by the British Government.

At this juncture, the Governor summoned the six officers to his presence to explain their conduct in supporting Macarthur's protest and refusing to sit with the Judge-Advocate, but they declined to obey. The Governor also sent several times during the next day to Major

Johnston, the Commandant, at his residence at Annandale, asking him to confer with him as to the conduct of his subordinates. That officer, however, declined to come to town, on the plea of ill-health. This was an evident subterfuge, for between 6 and 7 p.m. on the same day (the Anniversary of the foundation of the colony) he suddenly made his appearance in the Barrack Square, where, if we may believe his statement, he found everything in a state of ferment and confusion, and himself beset with the clamours of a number of the leading inhabitants, civil as well as military, calling upon him to put the Governor under arrest. He accordingly marched at the head of his regiment, with drums beating and colours flying, to Government House, and Bligh was put in close confinement in his own residence. Johnston thereupon assumed the government, his first act being to suspend the Judge-Advocate, the Commissary, the Provost-Marshal, the Chaplain, and other principal officials, and to appoint others to act in their place.

Major Johnston continued to administer the government till his Lieutenant-Colonel (Foveaux) superseded him, as the senior officer in the colony, and eventually Colonel Paterson came from Tasmania and assumed the direction of affairs. Both these officers approved Johnston's proceedings, but the latter set Bligh at liberty, after a detention of twelve months, on condition of his proceeding straight to England in a vessel which was then ready to sail. Bligh promised to do so, but on his way called at Tasmania, where the military authorities attempted to detain him; he was, however, successful in escaping their hands.

News of the affair had meanwhile reached England, and the Government, being very much concerned at the proceedings of the military, despatched Lieutenant-General Macquarie to the colony as Governor. His instructions were to reinstate Governor Bligh for twenty-four hours, to assume the government himself, and to send Johnston home under close arrest. Bligh could not be reinstated, as he had left Sydney; so Macquarie's first act was to arrest Major Johnston, who was subsequently tried by court-martial in England and sentenced to be cashiered, the leniency of the sentence being such as to call forth special remark from the Prince Regent, in a minute appended to the proceedings, distinctly stating that it was not to be drawn into a precedent. Johnston afterwards returned to the colony, and died at his estate at Annandale.

With the arrival of Governor Macquarie, the colony entered on a stage of decided progress. The final abolition of the traffic in rum was followed by a marked improvement in the morals of the population. Schools were established, and the children, who had hitherto grown up in total ignorance, were taught to read and write, and instructed in useful handicrafts. An impetus was given to exploration, and the dwellings of the settlers in the bush were much improved by the efforts of the Governor during the annual tours which he made through the colony. Churches and public buildings were erected, asylums founded, and a better tone s given to society generally by the exertions of this philanthropic overnor, ably seconded by the endeavours of his high-minded wife, who boured to improve the condition of her sex and the children in the lony. Among the many beneficial works undertaken by Macquarie, y far the most important was the road over the Mountains, *via* Lapstone Hill and Mount Victoria, to Bathurst. After many attempts to penetrate he Coast Range, it had been at last successfully crossed, in 1813, by Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, names memorable in the annals of he colony. An account of the expedition will be found in another place.

Another distinguishing feature of Governor Macquarie's policy, which was almost as beneficial as his efforts to instruct the population in religion and morality, and to open up the country, was the favour with which he treated the "emancipists"—that is, those convicts who had become free by serving out their sentences. When it is remembered that the majority of those transported had been guilty of petty offences only, or of acts which in the present day would scarcely be deemed offences at all, the Governor's determination to give every encouragement in the way of official recognition to emancipists must be strongly commended. To transport a person for a petty offence, to ostracise him for the rest of his life, and to extend the social ignominy to his children, was in the highest degree unjust; and Governor Macquarie, as a humane man, set his face against the custom. In religious matters he showed a largeness of mind in advance of public opinion, by removing, as far as lay in his power, the religious disabilities under which a large section of the colonists laboured. In 1821, after a longer term of office than has been allotted to any Governor either before or since, "L. Macquarie, Esq.," as he modestly styles himself in the inscriptions on the public buildings he erected—discarding the prestige attaching to his military rank—left the colony, o the regret of the entire population, and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Brisbane.

The new Governor trod in the steps of his predecessor. He carried on he work of exploration, and in 1823 despatched Mr. Oxley, Surveyor-General, to survey Moreton Bay, Port Curtis, and other parts of the north-eastern coast-line. Following up the information furnished by a cast-away named Pamphlett, Oxley discovered a river debouching into Moreton Bay, which he named after the Governor; and a town was ounded on its banks, also named Brisbane, which has become the capital f the colony of Queensland. The Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers were discovered soon afterwards by Hovell and Hume, who had formed an exploring party under the auspices of the Governor. The immigration of free settlers was much encouraged by Sir Thomas Brisbane, the result being the arrival of numbers of young men, many possessing capital, who became squatters, and soon wrought an important change in the colony, by causing the costly Government farms to be broken up. As a consequence, the wants of the community were more cheaply and better supplied by private enterprise. Censorship of the press, which had been strictly enforced up to this time, was abolished by Governor Brisbane, by proclamation dated 15th October, 1824. Trial by jury was introduced about the same period, by which the privilege of being tried by his peers was extended to every man, the assessors to the judge before that time having been chosen exclusively from officers in the Army. Sir Francis Forbes, the first Chief Justice, was mainly instrumental in introducing this great and salutary change in the administration of the law. The first normally constituted jury sat at the November Quarter Sessions of 1824. An Act had also been passed by the Imperial Parliament, in 1823, which conferred another most important privilege on the colony. It was provided that the Governor should nominate a Legislative Council of seven members, by whose advice he was to be guided. Previous to the appointment of this Council, the Governor had been virtually absolute in power, the only check upon him being the public opinion of the colonists, and the authority of the British Government as represented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This Council of Seven was really the nucleus around which have gathered our present Constitution and the liberties we now possess. It was the first step—in which, says the proverb, all the difficulty consists; and yet it was only after much agitation that even this initial effort was allowed to be made.

The next Governor was Major-General Ralph Darling, who, finding the colony in the state of progress above described, by a series of blunders nearly succeeded in destroying the beneficial result of the efforts of his predecessors. Arriving in Sydney in 1825, he soon became involved in very serious disputes with the colonists and the press. In order to meet the criticisms of the latter, a number of Acts were passed by the Council, which had the effect of stifling obnoxious comments for the time. One good result which sprang indirectly from these arbitrary Acts was the enlargement, in 1828, of the Legislative Council from seven to fifteen members. The Bushranging Act was passed by this Council to put down a prevalent nuisance—the gangs of escaped prisoners who infested the principal roads and robbed all-comers without distinction.

The work of exploration made some progress in Governor Darling's time, the famous journeys of Captain Charles Sturt having been undertaken with his sanction. Other explorers were Allan Cunningham, Hume, and George Macleay, son of Alexander Macleay, the Colonial Secretary of that day.

It was strongly suspected at this time that the French had an idea of forming settlements in Australia. French ships constantly appeared off the coast, ostensibly fitted out for the purpose of making geographical discoveries, but really, it was believed, to found a colony in any Australian territory which they might find unoccupied. To frustrate this suspected design, Darling despatched two expeditions, in 1826, to King George's Sound and to Western Port, in which neighbourhoods it was surmised the French were hovering. To show that there was some ground for these fears, chimerical as they may now appear, it will be sufficient to quote the Governor's instructions to the officers in charge of the expeditions. He says :—"Should you find the French already in occupation, you will, notwithstanding, land the troops, and signify to the Frenchmen that their continuance with any view of establishing themselves, or colonization, will be considered an unjustifiable intrusion on his Britannic Majesty's possessions." No Frenchmen, however, were found at either of the places named, and settlements were therefore promptly formed at Western Port, and at King George's Sound and Swan River, in Western Australia. When Governor Darling left the colony in 1831, much progress had been achieved, in spite of the newspaper war and his personal unpopularity; the population had reached over 51,000 for the whole of New South Wales, and the value of the total exports was £500,000.

The unpopularity of Governor Darling gave a factitious advantage to his successor, Sir Richard Bourke, even before his sterling qualities had become known. Sir Richard Bourke may be said to have been the real founder of our present free institutions, as under his rule the foundations of the Constitution we now enjoy were well and firmly laid, on the solid basis of full and equal rights to all, whatever their sect or belief and whether emancipist or originally free. Immigrants began to arrive in large numbers, under a policy of assisted immigration, which was then initiated. The first vote in aid of immigration was made by the Legislative Council at Bourke's suggestion, and the British Government doubled the amount given by the colony. Under that system the first batches of immigrants to arrive were fifty young women from an orphan school in Cork, and fifty-nine mechanics from Scotland, whom the Rev. Dr. Lang introduced for the purpose of building the Australian College.

But the great achievement of Sir Richard Bourke's administration was the establishment of religious equality, and the breaking up of the monopoly of Government aid enjoyed by one communion. For his services in the cause of liberty, in this and other instances, a movement was set on foot after his departure—which took place in 1837, twelve months after the passing of the Church Act—to erect a statue of him in Sydney. Mr. Westmacott was commissioned to design a figure of Sir Richard in bronze, which, together with a granite pedestal, arrived in Sydney in 1842. It was erected where it now stands, at the Macquarie-street entrance to the Domain, opposite to the Public Library, and was unveiled on the 11th April, 1842. A general holiday was proclaimed on the occasion, and the assemblage was the most numerous which had up to that time gathered, for any purpose, in the metropolis. The succeeding Governor, Sir George Gipps, delivered a speech, laudatory of his predecessor, in whose steps he said he was resolved to tread. This was the first statue ever set up in Australia. It was no more than a fitting tribute to the virtues of the Governor, and serves even now as a reminder of the new order of things which he introduced.

The famous expeditions of Sir Thomas Mitchell, who had succeed Oxley as Surveyor-General, were undertaken during Bourke's tenure office. The first was to the north, as far as Liverpool Plains; in t second, the country between the Bogan and the Macquarie was surveye and in the third, the course of the Darling was traced, from its sou to its junction with the Murray. In the fourth, Mitchell discove the rich lands of Victoria, which so enraptured him that he named t country Australia Felix.

The administration of Sir George Gipps was marked by the abolitio of transportation. The system of assigning convicts as servants to th settlers had ceased in 1838, and transportation itself was abolished b an Order in Council in 1840, though an attempt was made to revive i nine years later. For many years previous to its abolition, the system of transportation was viewed with great disfavour by the colonists, and a powerful league was formed as early as 1830 to bring about its cessation. During the fifty-three years when New South Wales wa open to receive British prisoners, the number of convicts who landed in Sydney was about 82,250, of whom 70,040 were males and 12,210 females. At the census of March, 1841, there were in the colony 19,397 persons, 15,760 males and 3,637 females, originally bond, but free by servitude or emancipation; and 26,977 persons, 23,844 males and 3,133 females, whose period of servitude had not expired. It would therefore appear that out of the total number of convicts sent to the colony, 46,374 remained at the abolition of the system of transportation, while 35,876 had either been removed by death or had left the settlement.

The great event of Governor Gipps' time was undoubtedly the introduction of a new Constitution, by the establishment of a Legislative Council composed of thirty-six members, twelve nominated by the Crown, and the remainder elected by those who were placed on the electoral roll, a small property qualification being required. The new Council met on the 1st August, 1843.

A great commercial crisis followed soon after the introduction of the new Constitution, and was the cause of serious and far-spread distress. An account of the causes which led up to this period of acute depression, and of the remedial measures, such as the Insolvency Act and the Lottery Bill, adopted to enable the colony to weather the storm, will be found in the chapter dealing with "Industrial History."

The first agitation for the formation of the Port Phillip District into a separate colony took place in 1844, towards the close of Governor Gipps' administration, and the claims of the trans-Murray residents to govern themselves were ably advocated by Dr. Lang, one of the six members returned by the district since known as the colony of Victoria. The entire population of what is now New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland did not, at that period, exceed 150,000, of which the

Port Phillip District contributed only 30,000. Their distance from the seat of Government nevertheless justified the demand of the Victorians for separation, which was conceded, to their great permanent benefit, in 1851, seven years after the first agitation, and when the population of Victoria numbered 77,345. On the 1st December 1859, New South Wales was again dismembered, losing its northern province, which was constituted a separate colony under the name of Queensland.

Sir George Gipps was succeeded as Governor by Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, during whose tenure of office occurred several of the most important events in the history of Australia. These, in the order of their happening, were the final abolition of transportation in 1849; the separation of Victoria in 1851; the discovery of gold in the same year; and the establishment of Responsible Government in 1855-6. The abolition of transportation was not accomplished without a severe struggle with the pro-assignment party, the details of which will be found in their proper place, under the head of "Industrial History."

The discovery of gold, in 1851, was by far the most important incident which had yet occurred in the annals of the country. An account of that remarkable event, together with its industrial and commercial results, will be found in its proper place, but a few remarks are here called for as to the historical bearing of the great discovery. For many years prior to 1851 it was known that small quantities of gold had been found in the Bathurst district; and a colonist offered, during the administration of Sir George Gipps, to conduct the Government surveyors to a spot where he said gold existed in payable quantities, but the project was discouraged. After a few years, however, when wages were low and work was scarce, the tale of a discovery of gold was suddenly on every tongue.

In the early part of 1851 nuggets began to arrive in Sydney. They had been found in the vicinity of Bathurst, and their inspection by the public raised a wave of excitement, which affected all classes. It is not surprising that the possibility of amassing a fortune in a few months—which seemed indisputable from the presence of so many specimens of gold—should have induced hundreds of people of all ranks to abandon their employments, and set out for Bathurst. Nor could news of such a nature be confined within the colony, and before many months had elapsed the presence of gold in Australia was known all over the world. Then, from every quarter of the globe, followed a mighty rush of the most enterprising spirits and those physically the most capable of enduring the unknown hardships before them—a circumstance on which Australians in the future will have occasion to congratulate themselves; for the splendid physique of the early colonists, already manifested in their sons and daughters, must undoubtedly become the inheritance of succeeding generations.

The effect produced on society by this most fortunate discovery
unpleasant enough at first. Stations throughout the colony were
without hands, and all ordinary occupations were threatened with
tinction, in consequence of the general exodus to the gold-fields.
squatters even petitioned the Government asking that martial law mi
be proclaimed, and all gold-digging peremptorily prohibited, in or
that the regular industrial pursuits of the country should not be int
fered with. The Governor, however, refused to accede to this manifes
absurd request. So great a change in the circumstances of the coun
as that wrought within so short a time by the gold discovery, could
fail to affect many persons prejudicially. But after a few years, affa
resumed their normal course, and gold-mining found its level as one
the ordinary industries of the country. The great and permanent bene
which resulted from the influx of an enterprising population, the incre
of wealth, and the consequent development of many other industri
cannot be overrated. Nothing since the introduction of wool-growing
tended so much to develop its resources, and to make so widely known
great advantages which Australia offers to the overcrowded populati
of the Old World, as the discovery of gold in 1851. Since that era
country's progress has been by leaps and bounds, and Australia, whi
was before regarded merely as a far-off dependency of Great Brita
now takes a place amongst the nations of the world, and is in a fair
of realising the prophetic visions of future greatness which inspired
founders.

For several years before the discovery of gold there had been growi
up among the colonists a strong desire for a larger measure of s
government. The position of the colony as a Crown dependency wa
galling one, especially when the population became so largely increa
through the outbreak of the gold fever. It was felt that the
system, which might have sufficed for the government of the peo
when their numbers were few, was quite unsuitable for so large
community as New South Wales had become. Hence the agitat
that had already been commenced in favour of a free Constitution
continued with ever-increasing force.

In 1851, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (13 and
Vic., No. 59), in accordance with which the dependency of Victoria
erected into a separate colony, and provision was made to confe
Constitution upon New South Wales. Accordingly, in 1852, a Sel
Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed to prepare
Constitution for the colony, in pursuance of the powers confer
by the Act above cited. The first result of the labours of
Committee was the despatch of a remonstrance to the Secretary
State for the Colonies, directed not so much against the
form of government, as against the amendment of the Constitut
which it was proposed to introduce. Subsequently, after much
respondence, and the receipt of a despatch from the Secretary
the Colonies, Sir John Pakington, practically conceding all t

the colonists demanded, a Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed to draft the new Constitution. This Committee consisted of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Wentworth, Deas-Thomson, James Macarthur, Cowper, Martin, Macleay, Thurlow, Murray, and Dr. Douglas.

The Committee, in their report, stated that they desired to have a form of government in perfect accordance with the British Constitution, and that a conservative element ought to be constantly present in the Constitution; and for this reason they declared they did not feel inclined to hazard the experiment of an Upper House based on the general elective franchise. To provide for this Upper House the Committee gravely made the following recommendations. They proposed that an hereditary nobility should be created, leaving the Crown to decide whether or not to give the first holder of a title a seat for life, and that the aristocracy to be thus established should, in the future, elect a certain number of their order to form the higher branch of the Legislature. The question of federation was also noticed in the report:—"One of the most prominent legislative measures required by the colony, and the colonies of the Australian group generally, is the establishment at once of a General Assembly, to make laws in relation to those intercolonial questions that have arisen, or may hereafter arise, among them. The questions which would claim the exercise of such a jurisdiction appear to be (1) intercolonial tariffs and the coasting trade; (2) railways, roads, canals, and other such works running through any two of the colonies; (3) beacons and lighthouses on the coast; (4) intercolonial gold regulations; (5) postage between the said colonies; (6) a general court of appeal from the courts of such colonies; (7) a power to legislate on all other subjects which may be submitted to them by addresses from the Legislative Councils and Assemblies of the colonies, and to appropriate to any of the above-mentioned objects the necessary sums of money, to be raised by a percentage on the revenues of all the colonies interested."

This report, when it was made public, caused a good deal of commotion in the metropolis, and at a public meeting, held at the "Royal Hotel," the following energetic protest against part of the scheme was adopted:—"That this meeting views with surprise and strong feelings of opposition the scheme proposed for the political constitution of the colony, especially in respect to the establishment of an Upper House of Crown nominees, and a certain unprecedented order of colonial nobility"; and a further resolution decided that "a larger meeting should be held, in order to record a protest against a measure so repugnant to the feelings of British subjects, and fraught with so much danger to the political rights of the people." A more numerous meeting was accordingly held, the principal speakers at which were Mr. (afterwards Sir Henry) Parkes, Messrs. Robert Johnson, Montefiore, Deniehy, Mort, Piddington, Flood, and Archdeacon McEncroe.

In spite of these meetings, the Council proceeded to debate the Report as it stood. After a great deal of opposition to the retention of the "aristocratic" clause, and after the holding of more public meetings, the "Constitution Act," the basis of the rights we now enjoy, was finally passed on the 21st December, 1853. This Act established two Legislative Chambers. The first was to consist of not less than twenty-one natural-born or naturalised subjects (four-fifths of whom were to be persons not holding any office of profit under the Crown) who were to be nominated by the Governor in the name of the Queen. The first members were to hold their seats for five years, at the expiration of which period all appointments were to be made for life. The President was to be appointed by the Crown. The Legislative Assembly was to consist of fifty-four members, the qualification for the franchise being fixed as follows:—All inhabitants of full age, being native-born or naturalised subjects of the British Crown, and not having been convicted of any crime—or, if convicted, pardoned—and having paid all rates and taxes for which they were liable, were placed in the condition precedent required for either voting or being elected to the Assembly, but they were required, in addition, to be qualified in the following respects:—As the owner of a freehold estate of £100; as a householder, lodging occupier, or leaseholder for three years at £10 per annum. To these were added boarders at £40 per annum, persons receiving £100 a year salary, and pasture-license holders for one year. Ministers of religion were declared incapable of being elected to the Legislature. Subsequent alterations to the Constitution Act removed that restriction, and made universal manhood suffrage the basis of the electoral system of the colony, with the application of the principle popularly known as "one man, one vote." A full account of the parliamentary system will be found under the chapter of this work treating of "Constitution and Government."

Before the Constitution could become operative, it was necessary that the sanction of the British Parliament should be obtained, and for this purpose Wentworth (whose name has become identified with the establishment of Responsible Government) and E. Deas-Thomson were authorised by the Council to proceed to England in order to do what lay in their power to facilitate the passage of the necessary measure. Accordingly, about the middle of the year 1855, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament, empowering the Queen to assent to the Bill drawn up by the Council, and on the 19th December the new Constitution was formally inaugurated by Governor-General Sir William Denison, who had just succeeded Fitzroy, being sworn in afresh under a Commission from the Queen, which revoked his former credentials and appointed him "Governor-in-Chief" of New South Wales. The writs for the first Parliament were issued on the 22nd May of the following year.

With the enumeration of the events that led up to the introduction of responsible government this narrative fitly closes. All that has since taken place has been treated, as far as possible, as belonging to statistics, and will be found dealt with in various places in other chapters of this volume.

SUCCESSION OF GOVERNORS.

The succession of Governors, from the foundation of the colony to the present time, is given in the following table:—

	From	To
Captain A. Phillip, R.N.	26 Jan., 1788	10 Dec., 1792.
Major F. Grose, New South Wales Corps (Lieutenant-Governor)	11 Dec., 1792	12 Dec., 1794.
Captain W. Paterson, N.S.W. Corps (Lieutenant-Governor)	13 Dec., 1794	1 Sept., 1795.
Captain J. Hunter, R.N.	7 Sept., 1795	27 Sept., 1800.
Captain P. G. King, R.N.	28 Sept., 1800	12 Aug., 1806.
Captain W. Bligh, R.N.	13 Aug., 1806	26 Jan., 1808.
During Governor Bligh's suspension—		
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Johnston, N.S.W. Corps Lieutenant-Colonel J. Foveaux, N.S.W. Corps Colonel W. Paterson, N.S.W. Corps	26 Jan., 1808	28 Dec., 1809.
Major-General L. Macquarie	1 Jan., 1810	1 Dec., 1821.
Major-General Sir T. Brisbane, K.C.B.	1 Dec., 1821	1 Dec., 1825.
Colonel Stewart, 3rd Regiment (Acting Governor)	6 Dec., 1825	18 Dec., 1825.
Lieutenant-General Ralph Darling	19 Dec., 1825	21 Oct., 1831.
Colonel P. Lindsay, C.B., 39th Regiment, (Acting Governor)	22 Oct., 1831	2 Dec., 1831.
Major-General Sir Richard Bourke, K.C.B.	3 Dec., 1831	5 Dec., 1837.
Lieut.-Colonel K. Snodgrass, 52nd Regiment (Acting Governor)	6 Dec., 1837	23 Feb., 1838.
Sir George Gipps	24 Feb., 1838	11 July, 1846.
Lieut.-General Sir Maurice O'Connell, Commander of the Forces (Lieutenant-Governor)	12 July, 1846	2 Aug., 1846.
Sir Charles A. Fitzroy, K.C.B., K.H.	2 Aug., 1846	17 Jan., 1855.
Sir William Thomas Denison, K.C.B.	20 Jan., 1855	22 Jan., 1861.
Lieutenant-Colonel John F. Kempt, 12th Regiment (Administrator)	23 Jan., 1861	21 Mar., 1861.
The Right Honorable Sir John Young, K.C.B., G.C.M.G. — Administrator	22 Mar., 1861	15 May, 1861.
Governor-in-Chief	16 May, 1861	24 Dec., 1867.
Major-General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., Commander of the Forces (Administrator)	25 Dec., 1867	7 Jan., 1868.
The Right Honorable the Earl of Belmore, P.C.	8 Jan., 1868	22 Feb., 1872.
Sir Alfred Stephen, Knt., C.B. (Administrator)	23 Feb., 1872	2 June, 1872.
Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, G.C.M.G.	3 June, 1872	19 Mar., 1879.
Sir Alfred Stephen, K.C.M.G., C.B. (Lieutenant-Governor)	20 Mar., 1879	3 Aug., 1879.
The Right Honorable Sir Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, P.C., G.C.B.	4 Aug., 1879	9 Nov., 1885.
Sir Alfred Stephen, G.C.M.G., C.B. (Lieutenant-Governor)	10 Nov., 1885	11 Dec., 1885.
The Right Honorable Baron Carrington, P.C., G.C.M.G.	12 Dec., 1885	1 Nov., 1890.
Sir Alfred Stephen, G.C.M.G., C.B. (Lieutenant-Governor)	3 Nov., 1890	15 Jan., 1

	From	To
The Right Honorable the Earl of Jersey, P.C., G.C.M.G.	15 Jan., 1891	28 Feb.,
Sir F. M. Darley, Kt., Chief Justice (Lieutenant-Governor)	2 Mar., 1893	29 May,
The Right Honorable Sir Robert William Duff, P.C., G.C.M.G.	29 May, 1893	15 Mar. (died in
Sir F. M. Darley, Kt., Chief Justice (Lieutenant-Governor)	16 Mar., 1895	21 Nov.
The Right Honorable Viscount Hampden	21 Nov., 1895	(Still in

During Sir William Denison's term of office he made two vi Norfolk Island, the first extending from 17th September to October, 1857; and the second, from 16th June to 8th July, During his first visit the government was administered by C H. K. Bloomfield, Mr. J. H. Plunkett, and Mr. Charles Cowper during the second, by Colonel J. M. Perceval, Sir William W. B and Mr. Charles Cowper.

LIMITS AND AREA.

THE Colony of New South Wales lies almost entirely between the 29th and 36th parallels of south latitude, and between the 141st and 153rd meridians east of Greenwich. It is bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean, to which it presents a coast-line extending over 700 miles, from Point Danger at its north-eastern extremity to Cape Howe at the south-east. From the point last mentioned, which is also the north-east limit of the colony of Victoria, it is bounded by an imaginary line, running in a north-westerly direction to the source of the Indi, a stream rising at the foot of Forest Hill, a few miles south of the Pilot Mountain, one of the most conspicuous peaks of the Australian Alps. The southern boundary of the colony follows the course of the Indi, and afterwards of the Murray, into which the first-named stream ultimately merges, as far as the 141st meridian of east longitude. The intersection of the Murray with this meridian forms a common point of the three colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

On the west, the colony is separated from South Australia by the line of the 141st meridian, as far as its intersection with the 29th parallel of south latitude, at which point New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland touch. Commencing at this point, the northern boundary of the colony follows the 29th degree of latitude, till it is crossed by the Macintyre River, one of the upper branches of the Darling, not far from the 149th meridian. Thence it follows the course of the Macintyre upward, to the junction of its tributary, the Dumaresq; leaving the Macintyre, it follows the tributary stream till it meets a spur extending from the Main Dividing Range to the junction of Tenterfield Creek and the Dumaresq. The boundary runs along this spur until it joins the main range, thence, almost parallel to the coast, it follows the Dividing Range to Wilson's Peak, where the Macpherson Range branches eastward. Following the last-named range, the northern boundary reaches the coast at Point Danger.

The area comprised within these limits is estimated at 310,700 square miles, or 198,848,000 acres, being a little over two-and-a-half times that of Great Britain and Ireland. Excluding the surface covered by rivers and lakes, the area would be 195,882,150 acres, or about 306,066 square miles.

The length of the colony, from Point Danger on the north to Cape Howe on the south, is 680 miles. From east to west, along the 29th parallel, the breadth is 760 miles, while diagonally from the south-west corner, where the Murray passes into South Australia, to Point Danger, the length reaches 850 miles.

PHYSICAL CONFIGURATION.

THE surface of New South Wales is divided naturally into three distinct zones, each widely differing in general character and physical aspect, and clearly defined by the Main Dividing Range, which traverses the country from north to south. The table-land, which forms the summit of this range, comprises one of the zones above mentioned, and marks the division between the coastal region, forming the eastern watershed, and the great plain district of the interior.

MOUNTAINS, TABLE-LAND, ETC.

The Main Dividing Range runs almost parallel to the coast, at no great distance from it. On the eastern edge of the table-land the mountains rise abruptly to a height which averages between 2,000 and 3,000 feet, while on the western side they slope gradually towards the great central plain. The geographical centre of the whole mountain system of south-eastern Australia lies in the south-eastern portion of New South Wales, close to the confines of Victoria. Here some of the peaks rise to a height of over 7,000 feet above the level of the sea. Mount Kosciusko and Mount Townsend, two of the highest peaks of the Australian Alps, attain an elevation of 7,328 feet and 7,260 feet respectively.

The central plateau, which these heights dominate, becomes subdivided into several branches, marking the watershed of three distinct river systems. The eastern watershed extends throughout the whole length of New South Wales and Queensland, and drains into the Pacific Ocean. The western watershed, embracing a portion of the three eastern colonies, is drained by the river system of the Murray and Darling into the Southern Ocean. In the southern watershed the Snowy River has its source, its upper basin being entirely in New South Wales, although its waters flow through Victoria and enter the sea near Bass' Strait.

In the south-eastern portion of the colony, which has the appearance of having been convulsed by some great physical disturbance, the width and altitude of the table-land are greatest. The mountains, however, are rugged and their slopes abrupt, as is also the case in other portions of the Dividing Range, particularly in the Blue Mountains and the eastern parts of New England. The average height of the Snowy and Muniong Ranges, which belong to the south-eastern district, reaches 5,000 feet; and the width of the plateau, in the direction of east to west, may be set down at 100 miles. The altitude of the Monaro district averages 2,000 feet above the sea-level; but as the table-land runs northward it decreases greatly in height and in width, until it narrows to a few miles only, with an elevation of scarcely 1,500 feet.

The table-land rises again at the Blue Mountains, where the principal summits attain a considerable elevation, Mount Beemarang reaching 4,100 feet. The general level of the plateau itself will be best understood when it is remembered that the Great Western Railway of the colony traverses a district in these mountains, of which the Clarence Siding, Mount Victoria, Mount Wilson, and Blackheath, are stations, situated at an elevation of over 3,000 feet. The dividing chain again decreases gradually in its spread northward of the Blue Mountains, until, as a comparatively narrow ridge, it divides the waters of the Goulburn and the Hunter, on the eastern slope, from those of the Namoi and the Castlereagh, on the western. The mass once more widens out in the Liverpool Ranges, where Mount Oxley stands conspicuous at a height of 4,500 feet, whilst still farther north Ben Lomond reaches 5,000 feet, and the table-land maintains an average altitude of 3,000 feet, giving to this district, although situated at no great distance from the tropics, the climate and aspect of much higher altitudes.

Narrow valleys and deep gorges everywhere break the continuity of the Dividing Range. Such is especially the case in the Blue Mountains, where the scenery is of striking and characteristic grandeur. The table-land everywhere presents one strange peculiarity. The level land suddenly terminates, and many hundred feet below, as far as the eye can reach, wooded valleys extend, whose undulating floors are walled in by sandstone cliffs, of height so enormous as to be without parallel elsewhere in the world. At the bottom of these valleys small rivulets and tiny streams, fed by waterfalls from the table-land, trace their way, under an ever-verdant dome of graceful tree-ferns and giant eucalypti.

The mountain scenery of this part of New South Wales produces on the traveller an entirely new impression. There are no snow-capped peaks upon which the rising and setting sun produces strange and magnificent colour effects, nor does any peculiar shape of the summits strike the imagination, as in the Alps and Pyrenees of the Old World. On the contrary, from the plains the New South Wales mountains look rather insignificant. But gazing from the edges of the high table-land into the deep valleys below, the mind is awed by the realisation of the magnificent scale on which Nature has worked in these solitudes. In many places the cliffs rise 2,000 feet perpendicularly from the valley beneath, and the hills at their feet, formed by the accumulation of debris from their sides and from the plateau above, appear as slight undulations. The valleys and sides of the gorges, wherever there is soil, are clothed with dense vegetation, and over all is the mantle of blue haze which makes the whole effect most striking, and which has given to the range visible from Sydney its appropriate name.

The main range throws off many spurs towards the sea on the eastern slope. These divide the waters of the numerous rivers which flow into the Pacific Ocean. Almost everywhere between the coast range and the sea the country is hilly and serrated, more particularly in the southern portion of the colony. In the Illawarra district, 50 miles to the south of Sydney, the mountains skirt the very edge of the coast, presenting towards the ocean a perpendicular face of cliffs nearly 1,000 feet in height. Farther north there is a wider coast-land, with greater stretches of country available for tillage and pasture.

The western slope is entirely different. Numerous ramifications of the general mountain system are thrown off, but all slope gently towards the great central plain of the interior. So gentle, indeed, is the declivity that the dividing lines of the various watersheds as they extend westward are scarcely visible, being only indicated by a succession of low ridges and isolated elevations.

In the extreme west of the colony, verging on South Australia, another mountain system exists, forming the western edge of an immense depression, through which the largest rivers of the Australian Continent hold their devious course. The Barrier and the Grey Ranges are part of this system. They consist of low hills, hardly rising to the dignity of mountains, and culminating in a few solitary peaks, such as Mount Arrowsmith and Mount Lyell, which attain an elevation of only 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Traces have been found of the existence at some earlier period of a range of primary rocks, extending from Orange to Cobar and Wilcannia, and forming the watershed between the Lachlan and part of the basin of the Darling. The range no longer exists as a landmark, for owing to denudation it has almost entirely disappeared.

The whole mountain system of New South Wales lies below the limit of perpetual snow. On the south-eastern slopes of the Snowy Ranges, however, and on the summits of the high peaks of the Australian Alps, snow sometimes lingers throughout the year.

LAKES OF THE MOUNTAIN REGION.

On the summit of the Main Dividing Range, and within a few miles of the inland towns of Goulburn, Queanbeyan, and Braidwood, two of the principal lakes of the colony are situated. Lake George is 16 miles in length and 6 miles in width, draining a basin whose area is about 490 square miles. It is situated at an elevation of 2,200 feet above the sea, and the scenery around it is very beautiful. This lake exhibits the phenomenon of a large drainage area without a visible outlet, for though it receives many small water-courses, no stream leaves it. Lak Bathurst, a few miles east of Lake George, is another depression the summit of the Dividing Range, and covers in ordinary season area of about 15 square miles. It is similar in character to Lake Geo having no outlet to the sea. Both lakes, in periods of great drou shrink considerably in area; but Lake George in most seasons is a fine sheet of water, and now that the railway to Cooma skirts its shores, the attractiveness of its scenery makes it a favourite resort of tourists.

The Coastal Region—Rivers.

The main range already described, traversing the country from north to south, gives rise to numerous rivers flowing into the South Pacific. Compared with the western rivers of the colony, those of the eastern slope appear insignificant enough; but contrasted with the principal rivers of western Europe, their relative size and importance are at once manifest.

In the extreme north of the colony, the Tweed and Brunswick Rivers flow through a rich country of semi-tropical aspect. Their courses are short, and bar-entrances render them navigable only for small craft.

A few miles south of the Brunswick, the Richmond descends from the heights of the Macpherson Range, on the slope of Mount Lindsay, one of the highest peaks of the northern table-land. The river has three branches, and is navigable on the main arm as far as Casino, 62 miles, and on Wilson's Creek to Lismore, 60 miles from the sea. The Richmond drains an area of about 2,400 square miles of country, rugged in its upper basin and heavily timbered, and in its lower course flowing through rich alluvial land, where the produce of semi-tropical climes grows luxuriantly.

Immediately south of the last-named stream is the Clarence—the largest river on the eastern watershed. It takes its rise in a spur of the Main Dividing Range, and runs in a south-easterly direction for 240 miles, carrying a considerable body of water through one of the richest districts of the colony, and emptying itself into the Pacific at Shoal Bay. The upper part of its basin is very rugged, so much so that its principal tributaries, the Mitchell, Nymboi, Timbarra, and Orara Rivers, rising in the New England table-land, between Armidale and Tenterfield, all flow in an opposite direction to the course of the main stream, generally trending to the north-east, and even, in the case of the Orara and the Nymboi, to the north-west. The Lower Clarence is a magnificent stream, averaging half-a-mile in width, from its mouth upwards, for nearly 50 miles, and it is navigable for 67 miles, as far as Copmanhurst. Ocean-going steamers of large tonnage ascend the river as far as Grafton, 42 miles from the sea. The area of country drained by the Clarence is over 8,000 square miles, or nearly half as large again as the basin of the Thames, whose course, although about as long as that of the Clarence, is navigable for only 60 miles.

Two short rivers, the Bellinger and the Nambucca, both navigable for some distance by small craft, enter the Pacific between the Clarence and Trial Bay.

Into Trial Bay, the Macleay, one of the principal rivers of the coast, discharges, after a course of 200 miles from its source near Ben Lomond.

With its principal feeders, the Guyra, the Apsley, and the Chandler, the Macleay drains an area of 4,800 square miles of country, the upper part of which, especially that portion through which the Apsley flows, is extremely rugged and precipitous. Series of waterfalls, some of which have a perpendicular descent of over 200 feet, mark the course of this stream, as it runs through narrow gorges whose sides rise in places to a height of about 2,000 feet. In its lower course the valley widens very considerably into magnificent alluvial plains, fast becoming the home of a numerous and thriving population. The Macleay is navigable for more than 30 miles, as far as the town of Greenhills, a few miles above Kempsey. The country through which it flows is for the most part thickly timbered.

The Hastings is the next stream met with, emptying itself into the sea at Port Macquarie. The country which it drains is rich, undulating, and densely wooded, and the area within its watershed is 1,400 square miles. Its chief arm is formed by the Wilson and Maria Rivers, on the left bank, the latter joining the main stream a few miles above Port Macquarie.

The Manning rises in the Main Dividing Range, and flows almost due east through a prosperous district, rapidly becoming settled. The valley through which it flows is densely wooded, and the agricultural land on both sides of the river is unsurpassed for fertility. The Manning has a length of 100 miles, and, like most of the rivers of the seaboard, its course lies through undulating country, broken in the upper portion, but widening out as it nears the sea. Its chief tributary is the Barrington, on the right bank; on the left, it receives the Barnard River, the Dawson, the Lansdowne, the Nowendoc, Rowley's River, and other small streams. The Manning is navigable for ocean-going vessels as far as Wingham, about 20 miles from its mouth.

Before reaching the Hunter, several small streams are met with, amongst which may be mentioned the Wollomba and Maclean, falling into Wallis Lake; the Myall, which empties into Myall Lake; and the Karuah, which reaches the ocean at Port Stephens.

The Hunter is one of the chief rivers of the colony, and has its source in the Liverpool Range. It flows first in a southerly direction until its confluence with the Goulburn; thence it takes an easterly course, and reaches the sea at Port Hunter, on the shores of which is situated the city of Newcastle. The Hunter receives numerous tributaries. The chief of these, in addition to the Goulburn, already mentioned, are the Wollombi, the Paterson, and the Williams. With its tributaries, the Hunter drains a country extending over 11,000 square miles—an area more than twice as large as the basin of the Thames. The river is navigable for ocean-going vessels as far as Morpeth, 34 miles from the sea; whilst the Paterson and the Williams are both navigable, the one for a distance of 18 miles, and the other for 20 miles. The upper courses of the main river and its branches are through hilly, if not mountainous districts; but its lower course is mainly through rich sandy, alluvial flats. Through its lower course, the river drains the largest and most important coal-field in Australia, whose emporium is Newcastle, the second city of the colony in shipping and commerce. The length of the Hunter is over 200 miles.

Though less important than the Hunter, from a commercial point of view, the Hawkesbury, which reaches the sea at Broken Bay, is none the less one of the finest rivers of the eastern seaboard. It is formed by the united waters of many streams, each of considerable local importance. Its chief tributaries come from the table-land or gorges of the Blue Mountains, but the principal branch of the river itself rises in the main range, further south. The range forming the watershed between the Hawkesbury and the streams flowing eastward, leaves the main range near Lake Bathurst, runs north-easterly, and terminates at the sea near Coalcliff.

Under the name of the Wollondilly, the Hawkesbury has its source not many miles from Goulburn. Flowing past that town, it proceeds in a northerly direction until it receives the waters of the Cox River, which come from the Blue Mountains, after passing through wild gorges, wherein may be found some of the most magnificent scenery in Australia. From the junction of the Cox River the stream is known as the Warragamba, which name it retains until its junction with the Nepean. This river rises in the coast range overlooking Wollongong, and together with its tributary streams, the Cataract and Cordeaux, forms the source of the water-works from which Sydney now draws its supply. Though smaller than the Warragamba, the Nepean gives its name to the united waters of the two streams. After receiving the Nepean, the river flows along the foot of the Blue Mountains, through a rich valley highly cultivated. From the Blue Mountains it is augmented by the waters of two streams, the Grose and the Colo, and from the junction of the latter the river is called the Hawkesbury. Still running northward, it is joined by the Macdonald, an important stream, navigable for some distance above its confluence with the Hawkesbury. The Macdonald comes from the north, and joins the river on the left bank. After turning to the east, the Hawkesbury holds its course through broken country, the scenery of which has been pronounced equal to any other river scenery in the world, and finally reaches the sea at Broken Bay. Its course extends over 330 miles, and the drainage area may be set down as 8,000 square miles. Navigation is possible as far as Windsor, 70 miles from the mouth, and a little dredging would enable sea-going vessels to reach that town.

In the neighbourhood of Sydney, some small streams fall into Botany Bay. Two of these, the Woronora and George's River, have their sources on the eastern slope of the ranges in which the Nepean, Cordeaux, and Cataract rise, and after rapid courses unite their waters before falling into the bay.

Generally speaking, the rivers south of Sydney are of less importance than those to the north, as the width of the coastal strip narrows considerably. The Shoalhaven, nevertheless, merits more than passing notice. Rising in the coastal range and following the direction of the coast, it flows northerly through deep gullies, marked by magnificent scenery peculiarly Australian ; then turning sharply to the east, it enters the alluvial plains, which are counted amongst the richest and most productive in the country. The Shoalhaven is 260 miles in length, but is navigable only for a few miles, and drains a district 3,300 miles in area. Farther south, in the narrow belt between the ranges and the sea, flow the Clyde, Moruya, Tuross, and Bega Rivers. They all pass through rich, undulating, agricultural country, and each has an average length of 60 to 70 miles. The Towamba River, at the extreme south of the colony, empties itself into the Pacific at Twofold Bay.

The physical aspect of the eastern rivers is much the same, their upper course being amidst broken and mountainous districts, and their lower waters flowing through undulating country with rich alluvial flats along their banks, for the most part highly cultivated. Where uncultivated, the country is densely covered with timber, some of which attains a magnificent growth, yielding the finest hardwood, and, in the north, cedar and pine.

Though belonging to another river system, the upper basin of the Snowy River is situated in New South Wales. This river receives the snow-fed streams rising on the southern slopes of the Monaro Range, its principal tributaries being the Bombala and the Eucumbene. The Snowy River and its tributaries water a considerable portion of the highest table-land of the colony, between the mountain ranges of which are found large tracts of arable land, where the produce of colder climes may be grown to perfection. After leaving New South Wales, the Snowy has a rapid and tortuous course, and finally enters the sea between Cape Howe and Bass' Strait, in the colony of Victoria. The area of its watershed in New South Wales is about 2,800 square miles.

HARBOURS AND PORTS.

With a coast so extensive as that of New South Wales, it would be natural to expect many harbours and bays affording outlets for the produce of the country, and such is the case. Besides harbours of commercial importance, there are others which afford shelter for vessels in stress of weather, and a refuge in time of danger. Fortunately, however, harbours of refuge are not often required. The coast of the colony is singularly free from cyclones, hurricanes, and like visitations. Gales are certainly not unknown, and casualties are not infrequently recorded ; but the coast is very safe, and in many cases disasters are to be attributed to causes which ordinary prudence could have averted.

Inside Cape Byron, in the north of the colony, the bay of the same name offers shelter, in all but north-east weather, to vessels trading to Queensland. A large pier has been constructed, by means of which the produce of the neighbouring districts of the Brunswick and Tweed may be shipped when an entrance to these rivers is impracticable.

At Shoal Bay, the entrance to the Clarence, the anchorage is safe and commodious, and when the works designed for improving the river entrance are completed, it promises to be one of the best ports on the coast.

Trial Bay, at the mouth of the Macleay, affords ample shelter and safe anchorage. The Government have erected a large prison on the hill overlooking the Bay, and are now utilising the prisoners' labour in constructing a breakwater, with the view of making Trial Bay not only a harbour of refuge, but a shipping port. When this design is accomplished, there is every reason to suppose that it will become one of the most frequented places on the coast, as the resources of the Macleay District are great and are rapidly developing.

Port Macquarie, at the mouth of the Hastings, and the harbour at Forster, near Cape Hawke, afford good anchorage. Port Stephens, a little farther south, offers at all times the most safe and commodious harbour desirable. As a natural port it is hardly inferior to Port Jackson, and the scenery of its shores is very beautiful. At present Port Stephens is little used, owing to its proximity to Newcastle and to the sparseness of the population in its immediate district.

Twenty miles farther south is Port Hunter, at the mouth of the river of that name. When first used, the harbour was inconvenient and somewhat dangerous; but this has been altered entirely by the breakwaters and training-walls which have been constructed. Newcastle harbour is now safe and roomy, with shipping facilities equal, if not superior, to those found in any other Australian port. Magnificent wharves line its shores, provided with hydraulic and steam cranes of the most modern type. The length of wharf frontage is more than two miles, the trade is large and increasing, and the city ranks third amongst Australasian exports. The importance of Newcastle is mainly due to the existence of immense coal deposits in its neighbourhood, which supply not only all the Australian colonies, but the China seas, the Pacific slopes of the United States, and the countries bordering on the Spanish main. Latterly, too, large shipments of wool have been made direct to English ports, Newcastle having direct communication by railway with the northern districts of the colony.

A few miles farther south is Lake Macquarie, in the centre of the coal-field of the Newcastle district, and covering an area of 44 square miles. The great drawback to the lake as a shipping port has been the shallowness of its entrance; but extensive dykes and training-walls have been commenced, which have already increased the draught of water in the channel, and with some further improvements Lake Macquarie will become an important shipping place.

Broken Bay, 15 miles north of Port Jackson, forms the mouth of the River Hawkesbury. It has a bold entrance, and on Barranjoey, the southern headland, is erected a fine lighthouse. The bay has three branches, Brisbane Water being the northern, the Hawkesbury mouth the centre, and Pittwater the southern arm. The first-named opens out into a series of lakes, and the town of Gosford, standing at the head of one of them—the Broadwater—is the centre of an import district. The scenery at and around Broken Bay is characteristic Australian, and in natural beauty rivals even Sydney Harbour. So of Broken Bay the coast-line is a succession of high cliffs and sa beaches.

The entrance to Port Jackson lies between perpendicular cliffs of sa stone several hundred feet high, and only 74 chains, or nearly one m apart. Sydney Harbour has been too often described to requir lengthy reference here. It holds the first place amongst the harbo of the world for convenience of entrance, depth of water, and nat shipping facilities. Its natural beauties charm all who visit its sho and in the quiet waters of its numerous bays and coves the na of the world might securely rest. The area of water surface of harbour proper is 15 square miles, and the shore-line is 165 miles circuit. At the South Head is erected a splendid lighthouse, fit with an electric arc light, the power of which is scarcely exceeded any coast. On the shores of Port Jackson stands Sydney, the cap of New South Wales and the mother city of the Australias. The and its suburbs occupy 141 square miles, and have within t boundaries about 410,000 people.

Botany Bay, the first port entered by Captain Cook, the discovere this territory, lies a few miles south of Sydney. It covers an area of square miles, and receives the waters of several small rivers. The has very little trade, by reason of its proximity to Sydney, but i frequented by craft in search of shelter during stress of weather.

Wollongong, Kiama, and Ulladulla are small harbours which have b snatched, as it were, from the sea, and are important shipping place

About 80 miles to the south of Sydney the coast is broken by important inlet called Jervis Bay. Its entrance is 2 miles wide, on its bosom safe anchorage may be found in any part. It is surroun by rich agricultural and mineral country, as yet unexploited. Nat has been so bountiful to the country as a whole that particular distri undoubtedly rich, must remain for a while undeveloped, and p which would in older countries be prized for their convenience capacity, here remain unused, save as refuges in stormy weather.

Bateman's Bay, at the entrance to the Clyde, is an inlet of s importance, and coastal steamers also load produce at the mouths of Moruya, Tuross, and Bega Rivers.

Twofold Bay is a magnificent sheet of water, near the southern li of the colony. Formerly it was the seat of a large whaling trade, whic now, however, all but extinct. It is well sheltered, and a fine jetty affo ample shipping facilities. Its trade is chiefly with the neighbour colonies, in produce and live stock, the bay being the nearest outlet the sea-coast for the rich district of Monaro. A railway is planne connect the port with the table-land and the metropolis, and Twof Bay promises to become a considerable shipping place in the near fut On its shores is situated the town of Eden.

ides the ports and harbours, properly so called, which have been enumerated, there are several lakes, or arms of the sea, which will, he development of the resources of the country, become ports of ent. From Cape Hawke to Port Stephens a chain of lakes extends, unicating with the latter through the Myall River, and covering e area. The most extensive are Wallis Lake, Myall Lake, and roadwater. The country round about is richly timbered, but its rces are still undeveloped. Between Lake Macquarie and Broken s Tuggerah Lake, also an extensive sheet of water. South of ongong is Lake Illawarra, of considerable area, but shallow, and rds the south of the colony are Coila and Tuross Lakes, into which uross River discharges.

ISLANDS.

islands of any note belong geographically to New South Wales. Broughton Islands, lying a few miles northward of the Heads of Stephens, are the largest in extent. Solitary Island, situated near northern part of the coast, between the Bellinger and Clarence rs, and Montagu Island, 18 miles south-east of the Moruya River ry, have been selected as the sites for lighthouses, but are not wise important. Norfolk Island, having an area of 8,607 acres, it oposed to annex to New South Wales; and Lord Howe Island, acres in extent, and lying some 360 miles off the coast, in the de of Port Macquarie, belongs politically to the colony.

WESTERN WATERSHED.

e western watershed of the colony is in physical features and aphical character the antithesis of the eastern. Instead of a w strip of country shut in by the sea and mountains, intersected merous short rivers with a rapid flow, the western watershed forms t basin through which the quiet waters of a few great rivers have long though uncertain courses. The rivers of the western region elong to the fluvial system of the Murray, which carries to the hern Ocean, through the colony of South Australia, the drainage watershed immense in extent, embracing the northern portion of ria, and the western and larger part of New South Wales, and ing almost to the centre of Queensland.

e Murray, or Hume, the southern branch of this vast river system, in the Snowy Mountains, from which its three principal sources, Hume, the Tooma, and the Indi descend. The first two of these ms rise on the northern and western slopes of Mount Kosciusko; Indi, which is really the main river, has a longer course, rising in a near the Pilot Mountain, at an elevation of 5,000 feet above the From the confluence of these rivers the Murray rapidly descends rds the plains below Albury, where it is only 490 feet above level, and has still a course of 1,439 miles to run. From Albury downwards the river receives many tributaries on both banks, those from New South Wales being the most important. Above Albury the tributaries are for the most part mountain torrents, carrying to the main stream the melted snows of the Australian Alps. In its lower course, however, the Murray is augmented, through the Murrumbidgee and Darling, by the waters of secondary systems as important as its own.

Before being joined by the Murrumbidgee, the Murray receives, from a series of ana-branches, the drainage of a large portion of the country lying between the two main streams. The Billabong Creek runs almost through the centre of the plain spreading between the Murray and Murrumbidgee; in the middle of its course it communicates with the latter river, through Colombo and Yanko Creeks, whilst on the south it feeds the Murray by the channel of the Edward River. The Edward is itself an important stream. It forms with the Wakool, Tupal, and Bullatale Creeks, and many other smaller and less important watercourses, a fluvial system, interlacing the whole country from Tocumwal to the Murrumbidgee junction, which has been justly named Riverina. The Edward and Wakool are together navigable for over 400 miles, as far as the important town of Deniliquin. From its furthest source at the foot of the Pilot Mountain to the town of Albury, the Murray has a length of 280 miles. Thence to the Darling River junction its course is 852 miles, and from that point to the sea, below Lake Alexandrina, it is 587 miles in length. The river has thus a total course of 1,719 miles, of which 1,250 are within the colony of New South Wales. It has been navigated as far as the Ournie gold-field, about 150 miles above Albury, and 1,590 miles from its mouth.

The Murrumbidgee has its source at the foot of a hill overlooking the Coolamon Plains, at a height of nearly 5,000 feet above the sea. Its course first shapes itself southward, but near the town of Cooma it takes a sharp curve and runs in a northerly direction until it approaches Yass. Here it curves again, trending to the west in a line parallel to the Murray; but turning south-west on receiving the Lachlan, it finally joins the main river after a course of 1,350 miles. The area drained by the Murrumbidgee is estimated at 15,400 square miles. In the upper part of its course it receives from both sides numerous rivers and creeks, the most important of which are the Umaralla, Molonglo, and Yass Rivers on its right, and the Goodradigbee and Tumut Rivers on its left bank. All these rivers flow through mountainous country over a series of plateaux, which from the Coolamon and Coorangorambula Plains to the plains round Gundagai and Wagga successively diminish in height from 5,000 feet to 720 feet and 607 feet above the sea.

The upper valleys, both of the Murrumbidgee and the Murray, are of similar physical aspect. Both rivers are snow-fed, the Murray to a greater extent than its tributary, owing to the higher elevation of the mountains and plateaux from which it descends. In the lower basins they are also similar in character, and the plains which they drain are amongst the most fertile in the colony. With an intelligent system of water conservation and irrigation, the lower valleys of these rivers would support a large population of agriculturists on land hitherto devoted entirely to sheep pasturing.

The chief tributary of the Murrumbidgee is the Lachlan, rising in the Main Dividing Range, where its principal feeders also have their source. These are the Boorowa, Crookwell, Abercrombie, and Belubula—all rapid streams, occasionally swollen by melting snow from the table-land. After receiving the Boorowa, the Lachlan flows to the Murrumbidgee, through 500 miles of plain country, without receiving any tributary of permanent character. The water-courses which carry off the surplus water from the rich plains on either side of the river, only reach it in time of flood. The total length of the river is 700 miles, and its basin has an area of 13,500 square miles. The country drained by the Lachlan is similar in most respects to that of the Murray and Murrumbidgee, and with regular rainfall or irrigation the light red soil and sandy loam of its lower valley would yield abundant returns to the farmer. The lines of demarcation between the Lachlan basin and that of the Murrumbidgee on the south and of the Darling on the north-west, are hardly perceptible on the ground, so flat is the country through which these great rivers flow.

Of all the tributaries of the Murray, the Darling drains the largest area, extending as it does over the greater portion of the western district of New South Wales, and embracing nearly all Southern Queensland. From its confluence with the Murray at Wentworth up to its junction with the Culgoa a few miles above Bourke, the Darling receives only two tributaries, the Paroo and the Warrego, both intermittent, though of vast size in times of flood. For over 1,000 miles this great river holds its solitary course, Nile-like, feeding the thirsty plains of the south with water falling many hundred miles distant on the downs of Queensland. The course of the river is tortuous in the extreme: in many places a narrow neck of land, a mile or two across separates parts of the river 20 miles distant if the stream were followed. The Darling presents the phenomenon, not uncommon in Australian rivers, of banks much higher than the plain behind; indeed, the river bed itself, though from 30 to 40 feet beneath the bank, is in some places but little below the general level of the country. Successive floods have added to the height of the banks, and have raised the bed of the stream correspondingly.

The Darling has no source under that name, which applies only to that part of the river as far as the Bogan junction. Above this point it takes the name of the Barwon, until its confluence with the Gwydir; then it is known as the Macintyre, and afterwards the main branch receives the name of the Dumaresq. The last-named stream has its source in the Dividing Range, on the summit of the table-land at the extreme north-east of the colony, not far from the head of the Richmond. The Dumaresq, Macintyre, and Barwon form, however, what might really be called the Upper Darling, and this appellation would be g graphically accurate. The variety of names, by which not only t Darling, but many other Australian rivers are known, is due to t fact that they were discovered in sections, the identity of which w not established until years afterwards, and the sectional names ha survived.

The Darling receives, in its upper course, many tributaries, which dra the southern portion of Queensland, but these rivers only flow for a sh part of their courses in New South Wales. Chief among them are t Mooni, Narran, Bokhara, Culgoa, Warrego, and Paroo. The princi affluents of the Darling within the boundaries of New South Wales on the left bank. The Gwydir, Namoi, Castlereagh, Macquarie, a Bogan are the most important. These streams are all of considera length and similar in character; their upper valleys are on the tal lands, and their lower courses lie through alluvial plains and gr pastoral country. The Darling is navigable, in times of freshets, as as the township of Walgett, 1,758 miles from its confluence with Murray; thence to the sea the distance is 587 miles, making a total len of navigable water from Walgett to the sea of 2,345 miles, and therefore ranks high amongst the rivers of the world, as estimated navigable length. Unfortunately, however, its upper course is o only during part of the year.

If the fluvial system of the Murray and Darling and their princi tributaries be considered in the light of the facilities it affords for wa carriage, its value will appear not inconsiderable. The Darling Ri may be made available for navigation for 1,758 miles, from Wentwo to Walgett; the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan combined have 900 mil and the Murray, from Ournie gold-field to the point where it enters t territory of South Australia, has a length of 1,120 miles. If to this added the navigable length of the Wakool and Edward, the total dista of river which could be navigated reaches nearly 4,200 miles in t western district alone—a length more than 50 per cent. greater th that of the railways of the colony.

Here and there along the course of the western rivers are found lak sometimes of considerable dimensions. These lakes are in reality shall depressions, receiving water from the overflow of the rivers in times flood, and in return feeding them when the floods have subsided. La Urana is the most important in the Murray and Murrumbidgee bas and Lakes Cowal, Cudgellico, and Waljeers, in that of the Lachl Along the Darling are Lakes Poopelloe and Gunyulka on the left ba and Laidley's Ponds and Lakes Pammaroo, Tandou, and Cawndilla the right, near Menindie. On the South Australian frontier are La Victoria, formed by the overflow of the Murray, and others of l importance. The area of these lakes is undefined, as they vary in s according to the rainfall, sometimes covering vast extents of count and at other times being reduced to the proportions of mere waterhol whilst in seasons of great drought they are absolutely dry.

CLIMATE.

accepted as an ascertained fact that the temperature of lands the southern hemisphere is lower than that of countries situated esponding latitudes north of the equator. To this general law outh Wales is no exception. The researches of the Government omer of the colony conclusively confirm this, and show, from the of temperature extending over many years, that the climate of outh Wales is one of the most temperate and uniform anywhere nced. Just as the country is divided naturally into three distinct phical regions, so it is separated into the same climatic divisions, which has its characteristic features.

coastal region extends from 28° to 37° south latitude, and if the ature accorded with that of similar latitudes in the northern here, Casino and Grafton would resemble the country bordering Gulf of Suez, in the Red Sea; Delhi, in India; Ningpo, in China; ew Orleans, in the United States. Such, however, is not the case. has a mean temperature of 67·8°, only 2·0° more than that of a, in Sicily, which lies more than 9° further from the equator. which is situated at the extreme south of the colony, in latitude s a mean temperature of 60·3°, which is practically the same as Nice and Rome—places respectively 466 and 339 miles further d from the equator. Not only is the climate of the coastal region in regard to average temperature than the corresponding es in the northern hemisphere, but the range is not so great. a very important factor in estimating the healthiness of a

egards Sydney, situated as it is midway between the extreme of the colony, in latitude 33° 51′ south, the same truth is at. Its mean temperature is 62·9°, and corresponds with that elona, the great maritime city of Spain, and of Toulon in France, mer being in latitude 41° 22′, and the latter, in 43° 7′ N. At , the mean summer temperature is slightly under 71°, and that of 54°. The range is thus 17° Fahrenheit, while the mean yearly for a period of 38 years was 63°. At Naples, where the mean ature for the year is about the same as at Sydney, the summer ature reaches a mean of 74·4°, and the mean of winter is 47·6°, range of 27°. Thus the summer is warmer and the winter much than at Sydney. The greatest temperature in the shade ever experienced in Sydney was in 1896, when 108·5° in the shade was registered; and the lowest winter was 35·9°, giving a range of 72·6°. At Naples the range has been as great as 81°, the winter minimum falling sometimes below the freezing point.

Taking the coast generally, the difference between the mean summer and mean winter temperature may be set down as averaging not more than 24°—a range so small as to be but rarely found elsewhere. The famed resorts on the Mediterranean sea-board bear no comparison with the Pacific slope of New South Wales either for natural salubrity or for the comparative mildness of the summer and winter, while the epidemics and pestilences which have devastated those regions of ancient civilisation have never made their appearance on these shores.

Passing from the coast to the table-land, a distinct climatic region is entered. On the high southern plateau, at an elevation of 4,640 feet, stands the town of Kiandra, having a mean summer temperature of 56·4°, and a winter temperature of 32·6°, corresponding with that of Dunfermline, in Scotland, in latitude 56° 5′ N., while Kiandra is in 35° 52′ S. Cooma, in the centre of the Monaro plains, at an elevation of 2,637 feet above sea-level, enjoys a summer as mild as either London or Paris, while its winters are far less severe. On the New England table-land, the climate of Armidale and other towns may be considered as nearly perfect as can be found. The yearly average temperature is barely 56·4°, while the mean summer temperature only reaches 67·7°, and the winter temperature falls to 44·2°, a range approximating closely to that of the famous health resorts in the south of France.

The climatic conditions of the western districts of the colony are entirely different from those of the other two regions, and have been often cited as disagreeable. Compared with the equable temperature of the coastal district or the table-land, there may appear some justification for such a reputation, but only by way of comparison. The climate of the great plains, in spite of the heat of part of the summer, is very healthy, and an inspection of the death-rates, both of children and grown persons, which are given elsewhere, amply bears out this view. The town of Bourke may be taken as an example. Seated in the midst of the great plain of the interior, it illustrates peculiarly well the defects, as well as the excellences, of the climate of the whole region. Bourke has exactly the same latitude as Cairo, yet its summer temperature is 1·5° less than that of the Egyptian city. New Orleans also lies on the same parallel, but the American city is 4° hotter in summer. As regards winter temperature, Bourke leaves little to be desired. The mean winter reading of the thermometer is 54·5°, and accompanied as this is by clear skies and an absence of snow, the season is both refreshing and enjoyable. The great heat experienced on occasional days in summer, when the thermometer reads considerably over 100° in the shade, is not accompanied by that moisture in the air which at the sea-coast would make a less degree of heat almost unbearable.

r South Wales falls naturally into three great meteorological as, viz., the coastal, embracing an area of 38,200 square miles; the ands, covering an area of 84,900 square miles; and the western t, with an area of 187,600 square miles. The last-named from its size and variable rainfall, be split into two districts ie 146° of east longitude as an arbitrary division. The coastal has an average rainfall of 41·98 inches. In this district are several stations close to the ocean which are subject to onal and varying rainfall. Amongst these may be mentioned acquarie and the Clarence Heads, the first having a mean annual 53·71, and the latter of 57·46 inches; while at Newcastle and the respective figures are 48·73 and 49·85 inches; and at Eden, the southern extremity of the colony, the average fall is only iches. On the table-lands the rainfall averages 33·39 inches; however, a small area at the southern portion of the table-lands the high average of 63·55 inches is experienced. West of the nds the amount of the fall decreases as the distance from the increases, and in a large area west of the Darling the average rainfall is less than 10 inches. For the whole area of the Western n the average does not exceed 20·64 inches. The mean rainfall colony for the last twenty-five years was about 25 inches, but this an hardly be taken as conveying any meaning, except perhaps shows the greater part of the colony to be favoured with but rainfall.

following table shows the average rainfall at some of the principal s, which are arranged in the order of their latitude, in each of at divisions:—

tation.	Least distance from the East Coast in miles.	Mean annual Rainfall in inches.	Station.	Least distance from the East Coast in miles.	Mean annual Rainfall in inches.
		Coastal District—Area, 38,200 square miles			
....	28	46·11	Windsor	30	33·18
....	13	59·16	Emu	36	33·09
Heads	0	57·46	Parramatta	16	38·68
....	22	39·80	South Head	0	48·59
cquarie	0	63·71	Sydney	5	49·85
....	10	50·33	Liverpool	18	38·73
....	78	25·02	Picton	21	30·21
brook	68	24·03	Bulli	0	51·87
n	40	31·68	Wollongong	0	43·31
lains	53	24·79	Nowra	6	39·94
....	15	46·08	Cape St. George	0	58·11
aitland	18	35·47	Moruya Heads	0	38·50
phens	0	57·65	Bodalla	7	38·48
le..................	1	48·73	Bega..	8	33·61
rn	26	36·92	Eden	0	36·28

Station.	Least distance from the East Coast in miles.	Mean annual Rainfall in inches.	Station.	Least distance from the East Coast in miles.	Mean annual Rainfall in inches.
Table-lands—Area, 84,900 square miles.					
Tenterfield	80	34·74	Armidale	81	33·01
Inverell	124	32·28	Eversleigh	78	33·20
Glen Innes	90	35·42	Walcha	83	31·78
Bundarra	113	30·80	Goonoo Goonoo	110	27·31
Quirindi	115	29·78	Young	140	27·95
Murrurundi	94	33·25	Mittagong	27	40·17
Cassilis	120	25·13	Moss Vale	31	40·26
Mudgee	121	27·41	Murrumburrah	126	27·26
Orange	124	39·42	Crookwell	81	34·25
Bathurst	96	24·72	Goulburn	54	26·62
Forbes	176	21·47	Yass	92	25·65
Kurrajong	35	52·26	Lake George	53	30·03
Mount Victoria	61	37·87	Queanbeyan	60	24·00
Katoomba	58	64·80	Kyamba	134	31·75
Carcoar	111	32·04	Kiandra	88	63·55
Springwood	42	43·65	Cooma	52	19·86
Cowra	126	28·86	Bombala	37	24·75
Western District, East of 146° East Longitude—Area, 87,800 square miles.					
Moree	204	25·13	Nyngan	269	21·32
Warialda	162	30·09	Cannonbar	272	18·80
Bingara	153	32·80	Dubbo	177	23·51
Brewarrina	345	18·49	Condobolin	227	19·97
Walgett	286	20·08	Marsdens	187	20·59
Narrabri	193	27·39	Wagga Wagga	158	23·27
Gunnedah	156	27·40	Urana	213	18·35
Coonabarabran	185	32·35	Albury	175	29·22
Western Plains, West of 146° East Longitude—Area, 99,800 square miles.					
Milparinka	605	9·58	Wentworth	478	12·24
Bourke	386	16·86	Hay	309	15·39
Wilcannia	473	11·53	Euston	422	12·76
Cobar	345	17·21	Deniliquin	287	17·08
Mount Hope	296	17·91	Moama	290	17·21

It is fortunate for the country that dryness is one of its characteristics; otherwise, instead of being the abode of health, the interior of the colony would, with abundant rains, have become an impenetrable jungle, the lurking-place of those malarial fevers which devastate so many fair regions of the Old World and America. New South Wales may, therefore, be compared favourably with any part of the world; and, taking into consideration the comparatively low latitudes in which it is situated, it offers a most remarkable variety of temperate climates. From Kiandra, on the highest part of the Great Dividing Range, to Bourke, on the great interior plain, the climate may be compared with f the region of Europe extending from Edinburgh to Messina, but generally resembling that of southern France and Italy. It may ore be regarded as peculiarly fitted for the habitation of people of ean race, embracing, as it does, within its limits, the climatic ions under which the most advanced races of the world have red. The following tables, showing the average meteorological ions of the places given in the preceding table, fairly represent ole colony :—

Station.	South latitude.	East longitude.	Altitude.	Mean.				Highest reading of thermometer in shade.	Lowest reading of thermometer in shade.
				Yearly temperature in shade.	Summer temperature in shade.	Winter temperature in shade.	Daily range of thermometer in shade.		
Coastal District.									
	° ′	° ′	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°
	28·50	153·00	82	67·8	77·0	57·0	25·3	116·4	24·6
	28·50	153·21	52	69·7	78·1	59·4	21·0	108·2	28·2
e Heads	29·28	153·21	122	69·0	76·0	60·6	15·6	104·8	37·4
	29·43	152·56	40	68·5	77·1	58·1	26·0	118·0	20·9
acquarie	31·25	152·54	49	64·2	72·1	55·2	16·8	97·6	30·4
	31·58	152·29	30*	65·6	74·8	55·1	20·2	112·6	24·0
	32·04	150·53	680	62·2	74·4	49·3	22·0	114·2	22·2
llbrook	32·17	150·53	475	64·5	76·7	51·6	25·2	117·6	20·0
on	32·34	151·09	135	65·0	76·4	53·3	19·2	109·2	22·0
Plains	32·35	150·55	150*	66·5	76·6	54·6	22·0	107·9	30·2
h	32·46	151·37	20	62·7	72·9	51·9	20·6	102·7	26·0
laitland	32·47	151·35	40	64·1	74·7	52·8	20·0	109·9	24·0
ephens	32·49	152·09	30*	64·2	72·0	55·5	19·5	104·2	30·6
tle	32·55	151·50	34	64·6	72·4	55·4	16·3	107·5	31·3
wn	33·34	150·53	40*	64·1	74·5	52·5	20·2	113·0	27·2
r	33·36	150·49	58	64·5	74·6	52·9	26·1	113·9	21·5
	33·46	150·40	87	62·8	73·4	51·0	17·7	107·6	26·8
atta	33·49	151·02	49	62·0	70·5	52·3	20·8	104·2	20·9
	33·51	151·13	146	62·9	70·8	54·0	13·6	108·5	35·9
ol	33·58	150·59	50	59·8	70·8	48·2	20·5	106·0	22·0
	34·10	150·40	549	59·4	69·5	48·1	22·5	111·7	19·7
	34·18	150·58	54	63·0	69·1	55·8	18·7	99·7	34·6
gong	34·25	150·56	54	62·7	69·9	54·8	17·2	113·4	31·9
	34·55	150·38	30	62·9	70·3	54·4	21·9	110·3	31·6
. George	35·12	150·45	175	61·8	69·2	53·9	14·6	105·2	25·5
Heads	35·53	150·06	50	61·5	68·5	53·5	18·5	113·8	31·1
	36·04	149·59	40	59·8	68·4	49·8	25·1	114·1	18·6
	36·38	149·53	50*	60·3	69·3	50·2	23·9	115·6	16·6
	37·00	149·59	107	60·3	68·0	52·0	13·9	106·0	29·3
Table-lands.									
eld	29·05	152·04	2,827	59·1	69·6	47·2	25·0	107·1	12·0
	29·48	151·10	1,980	60·1	73·2	46·0	23·5	108·6	13·4
nes	29·48	151·44	3,518	58·4	69·2	46·1	26·1	107·3	14·4
a	30·14	151·10	2,000*	59·9	69·4	48·0	23·9	96·5	17·5
le	30·32	151·38	3,333	56·4	67·7	44·2	24·7	105·2	13·9

* Approximate heights.

Station.	South latitude.	East longitude.	Altitude.	Mean. Yearly temperature in shade.	Mean. Summer temperature in shade.	Mean. Winter temperature in shade.	Mean. Daily range of thermometer in shade.	Highest reading of thermometer.
Table-lands—*continued.*								
	° ′	° ′	feet.	°	°	°	°	°
Eversleigh	30·34	151·40	3,576	55·6	67·1	42·9	24·2	102·
Walcha	31·02	151·35	3,386	53·8	65·0	41·4	23·4	102·
Goonoo Goonoo	31·20	150·54	1,550	61·7	74·2	48·2	26·1	105·
Quirindi	31·32	150·41	1,278	65·6	77·4	52·1	24·1	107·
Murrurundi	31·46	150·51	1,545	60·4	72·3	47·9	18·5	107·
Cassilis	32·00	150·00	1,500	61·1	74·7	47·1	20·9	111·
Mudgee	32·35	149·35	1,635	62·1	74·3	49·3	29·2	114·
Orange	33·18	149·09	2,843	55·0	67·3	42·4	22·0	100·
Bathurst	33·24	149·37	2,200	57·0	69·7	44·1	28·5	112·
Forbes	33·27	148·05	789	62·9	76·7	48·7	24·4	118·
Kurrajong	33·33	150·45	1,870	53·4	61·7	44·3	13·2	99·
Mount Victoria	33·36	150·15	3,490	54·5	65·4	42·6	20·1	106·
Katoomba	33·38	150·18	3,349	52·6	61·9	42·2	12·7	96·
Carcoar	33·41	149·14	2,380	55·7	68·0	43·1	24·2	99·
Springwood	33·43	150·34	1,216	61·2	70·6	51·3	17·0	104·
Woodford	33·44	150·24	2,191	57·6	66·1	47·9	...	93·
Cowra	33·54	148·45	987	63·2	77·4	48·7	22·2	116·
Young	34·18	148·21	1,416	61·4	73·7	49·1	28·5	113·
Mittagong	34·27	150·30	2,069	56·4	67·0	45·3	18·0	104·
Moss Vale	34·32	150·23	2,205	55·9	66·4	44·5	17·0	103·
Murrumburrah	34·32	148·23	1,268	62·4	74·3	49·9	25·2	106·
Crookwell	34·27	149·30	2,000*	52·4	64·4	40·2	24·0	98·
Goulburn	34·45	149·45	2,129	56·6	67·9	44·3	25·7	109·
Yass	34·52	148·56	1,657	59·0	70·8	46·9	20·2	105·
Lake George	35·12	149·25	2,267	56·8	68·0	44·0	20·5	105·
Queanbeyan	35·20	149·15	1,899	57·1	70·0	43·6	23·2	109·
Kyamba	35·29	147·44	750	59·0	73·0	45·4	...	116·
Kiandra	35·52	148·32	4,640	44·7	56·4	32·6	25·8	102·
Cooma	36·12	149·09	2,637	54·0	65·7	41·7	28·5	107·
Bombala	36·52	149·10	3,000	55·3	66·1	43·6	26·9	104·
Western District, East of 146° East Longitude.								
Moree	29·29	149·53	680	69·0	80·6	55·7	26·7	117·
Warialda	29·35	150·37	1,106	63·2	75·8	49·7	27·2	117·
Bingara	29·56	150·37	1,200*	63·8	76·3	50·3	26·6	116·
Brewarrina	29·58	146·54	430*	68·4	83·1	52·8	27·7	122·
Walgett	30·02	148·10	522	68·2	82·1	53·3	25·3	118·
Narrabri	30·20	149·46	697	67·0	81·1	52·3	28·1	118·
Gunnedah	31·01	150·15	874	66·4	79·8	52·3	26·8	120·
Coonabarabran	31·16	149·18	1,710	60·1	73·0	46·7	32·7	111·
Cannonbar	31·22	147·23	520	68·1	81·0	54·2	27·7	118·
Dubbo	32·18	148·35	863	63·1	76·4	49·2	25·8	113·
Condobolin	33·12	147·14	700*	65·2	78·8	51·1	26·1	111·
Marsdens	33·52	147·38	700*	65·6	79·6	51·0	24·0	113·
Wagga Wagga	35·07	147·27	615	60·9	74·9	46·9	28·1	117·
Urana	35·20	146·20	400	62·5	76·0	48·8	23·6	116·
Albury	36·06	147·00	531	60·6	74·2	47·1	28·2	117·

* Approximate heights. † Kiandra—Lowest, 20·0° below zero.

Station.	South latitude.	East longitude.	Altitude.	Mean.				Highest reading of thermometer in shade.	Lowest reading of thermometer in shade.
				Yearly temperature in shade.	Summer temperature in shade.	Winter temperature in shade.	Daily range of thermometer in shade.		
Western District, West of 146° East Longitude.									
	° ′	° ′	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°
rinka	29·45	141·52	1,000*	68·3	82·7	53·6	28·1	119·8	25·3
e	30·03	145·58	350	69·6	83·6	54·5	27·2	127·0	26·3
nnia	31·31	143·23	246	66·5	79·9	52·5	28·2	120·8	25·5
....	31·32	145·50	803	66·4	80·1	51·9	29·5	118·7	25·0
Hope	32·56	145·55	600*	65·3	79·1	51·3	24·0	116·1	24·6
worth................	34·08	141·58	144	64·2	76·8	51·3	26·4	119·0	25·0
....	34·30	144·56	305	63·6	76·0	50·6	28·3	117·3	21·1
n.......................	34·32	142·51	188*	64·0	76·4	51·1	33·4	124·5	17·1
quin	35·32	145·02	320	61·5	74·1	48·5	30·7	121·1	18·0
a	36·05	144·50	320	62·3	75·6	48·1	28·6	117·0	24·0

* Approximate heights.

e following table shows the average monthly meteorological cons of Sydney during the thirty-eight years ended 1896 :—

nth.	Atmospheric pressure.		Temperature.				Rainfall.			
	Average reading of standard barometer at 9 a.m., corrected to 32° Fahrenheit and to mean sea-level.	Average hourly reading of self-registering electric barograph, corrected to 32° Fahrenheit, but not to sea-level.	Mean standard (in shade).	Average reading of maximum thermometer (in shade).	Average reading of minimum thermometer (in shade).	Mean of sea-water (3 feet below surface).	Average monthly.	Greatest monthly.	Least monthly.	Average number of rainy days.
	in.	in.	° Fah.	° Fah.	° Fah.	° Fah.	in.	in.	in.	days.
r	29·965	29·771	71·5	78·2	64·9	71·2	3·690	10·489	0·419	14
y	30·001	29·806	70·9	77·0	64·7	71·6	5·495	18·556	0·401	14
....	30·088	29·894	69·3	75·3	63·1	70·8	5·441	18·700	0·419	15
....	30·142	29·946	64·9	70·8	58·2	68·3	5·698	24·490	0·060	14
....	30·135	29·935	58·4	64·9	52·0	64·4	5·074	20·868	0·214	16
....	30·114	29·915	54·4	60·6	48·2	60·0	5·606	16·296	0·541	12
....	30·143	29·945	52·4	59·4	45·6	57·5	4·239	11·952	0·120	12
....	30·131	29·930	55·0	62·5	47·5	57·6	2·822	10·166	0·040	11
ber	30·080	29·878	58·7	66·1	51·2	60·2	3·148	14·045	0·083	12
....	30·033	29·835	63·5	71·0	55·9	63·3	2·850	8·645	0·210	13
ber	30·012	29·812	66·6	73·8	59·3	66·6	3·209	9·880	0·200	13
ber	29·944	29·747	69·9	77·2	62·4	69·3	2·571	7·804	0·453	13
averages..	30·066	29·868	63·0	69·7	56·1	65·1	49·852	Extreme 24·490	Extreme 0·040	159

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

THE geology of the colony has been ably treated by various learn scientists, and this work has been added to by the late Mr. C. Wilkinson, Government Geologist, and by Mr. E. F. Pittman, h successor in that office. To the Rev. W. B. Clarke we are indebt for the first systematic classification of the various sedimentary form tions found in New South Wales. The original classification, howeve has been somewhat modified, and the rocks, as they are now known, a classified as follow :—

Cainozoic..	Post Tertiary	Recent. Pleistocene.	
	Tertiary	Pliocene. Eocene.	
Mesozoic ...	Cretaceous...	Upper Cretaceous—Desert Sandstone. Lower Cretaceous—Rolling Downs Formation.	
	Triassic	Hawkesbury Series	Wianamatta Shales. Hawkesbury Sandstones Narrabeen Shales.
Palæozoic..	Permo-Carboniferous	Upper Coal Measures. Middle Coal Measures. Upper Marine Series. Lower Coal Measures. Lower Marine Series.	
	Carboniferous.		
	Devonian.		
	Upper Silurian.		

PALÆOZOIC FORMATION.

This formation extends throughout almost the whole eastern porti of the colony, the rocks of the upper Silurian age principally occurri on the western watershed of the main Dividing Range, in the count where the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Abercrombie Rivers rise. Th appear on the eastern watershed, along part of the coast near Batema Bay, and, striking inland, are found in the basin of the Clyde, and t upper valley of the Shoalhaven.

The *Upper Silurian* rocks extend as far north as Mudgee, where th are overlaid by the Permo-Carboniferous strata of the Hunter Valle

by the belt of volcanic rocks extending along the Liverpool Range.
y reappear further north, in the upper valley of the Macleay River,
the east slope, and in the basin of the Namoi, on the west of the
iding Range. The Silurian rocks consist of sandstone, slate, and
estone, and exhibit evidence of metamorphism, particularly in the
ntry around Bathurst and Hill End. Limestone beds, of considerable
ent, are scattered throughout this formation. These are chiefly
nposed of crinoids and corals which outcrop prominently in the
ellington District, near Molong and Gulgong, at Tuena, and also in the
urrumbidgee District. In the limestone formations are found mag-
ficent caves, such as the Wellington, Wombeyan, Fish River or Jenolan
ves, Bungonia and Abercrombie, the fame of which has spread
en beyond the confines of Australia. The caves at Yarrangobilly, in
e Kiandra district, are also said to be very attractive.

The *Devonian* rocks are well seen at Mount Lambie, near Rydal,
here the late Mr. C. S. Wilkinson measured a section of strata showing
thickness of not less than 10,000 feet. They also occur in the southern
d western districts.

The *Carboniferous* rocks.—The coal-bearing rocks are of three
stinct systems, the first of which belongs in all probability to the
wer carboniferous age. Two seams, the one 5 feet and the other
feet in thickness, occur near the top of this system, but the coal in
th cases is full of bands, and otherwise too dirty to be of any
onomic value.

The *Permo-Carboniferous* rocks.—The second system, known as
Permo-Carboniferous, contains many seams of workable coal, which
ve been developed in both New South Wales and Queensland. Pro-
ctive coal measures occur in this system in three horizons in New
uth Wales: the first and lowest of these is the Greta (Stony Creek)
ies, the second the Tomago (East Maitland) series, and the last and
permost the Newcastle series. The total thickness of this system
its associated strata at Newcastle is about 11,000 feet, containing a
al thickness of about 150 feet of coal, without taking into account
ms of less than 3 feet in thickness. Recent borings at Cremorne,
oint on the northern margin of Sydney Harbour, as well as at Holt-
therland and Liverpool, confirmed the anticipations of Mr. C. S.
ilkinson as to the continuous extension of at least the upper or
wcastle series of coal-seams between Newcastle on the north and
lli on the south.

MESOZOIC FORMATION.

The *Triassic* rocks.—The third system comprises the Clarence Carbon-
rous basin, and is of Mesozoic age. Professor David estimates the
ngth of that part of it which contains the principal seams to be about
5 miles from east to west, while its width is about 37 miles from north

to south. The most remarkable beds in the Clarence basin are a series of massive whitish sandstones, which were considered by Mr. C. S. Wilkinson to be the equivalents of the Hawkesbury sandstones, and were named by him "The Middle Clarence Series," occupying as they do an intermediate position between the upper and lower coal-beds of the basin. None of the seams in this coal-field has as yet been proved to be of commercial value. Professor David estimates the top seam to contain 1 foot 9 inches, out of a total thickness of 5 feet 7½ inches, of coal fit for ordinary consumption, while the second and third seams have not yet been sufficiently tested to allow of a definite opinion being formed of their value. It is probable, however, that even if the seams prove to be of insufficient thickness and purity to yield coal fit for purposes of export, they may supply sufficient coal of fair quality for local requirements, especially if the coal be washed in suitable washing machines, such as Lührig's.

The Hawkesbury and Wianamatta series, which overlay the Carboniferous formation of that part of the country through which the Hawkesbury and its principal tributaries flow, belong to the Mesozoic period. It is in this formation that the wonderful gorges of the Blue Mountains, and the beautiful harbours of Port Jackson, Port Hacking, and Broken Bay, occur. The rocks consist of grey, purple, and chocolate coloured shales, and yellowish-grey sandstones, and the maximum thickness of the strata is estimated at 1,700 feet.

The Wianamatta series extends round Sydney, and covers a space in the shape of an irregular triangle, the angular points of which rest at Picton on the south, Richmond on the North, and Sydney on the east. The beds are composed of fine sedimentary deposits of argillaceous shales, and are of comparatively little thickness. They appear to have been deposited in hollows worn by denudation out of the sandstone on which they directly rest. Neither the Narrabeen shales, nor the Hawkesbury sandstones, nor the Wianamatta shales contain any remarkable seams of coal. All three formations are intersected by dykes of dolerite, which have also intruded the underlying Carboniferous formations, and where they have come in contact with the coal-seams, the latter have been converted into coke, sometimes to a thickness of 3 feet or more.

The *Cretaceous* formations occupy the north-western part of the colony extending from the Darling westward towards the north-west corner. Water-bearing strata have been reached at depths varying from 89 feet to 2,070 feet, and large quantities of water have been obtained. The existence of subterranean water throughout this extensive region has been practically demonstrated, and it remains for the settlers to avail themselves of the stores with which nature has charged her reservoirs in the ages that have long since been counted out. The steps already taken in regard to utilising the artesian water are described below.

CAINOZOIC FORMATION.

To this formation belongs the greater portion of the central and western districts of the colony. It therefore embraces the valleys of the great western rivers and their chief tributaries. The formation is, however, intersected by a broad broken belt, chiefly of Silurian rocks, extending across its centre, from the Bogan River towards the Great Barrier Range on the further side of the Darling. Large patches of Devonian formation are also met with in the same region. Making these deductions, the *Tertiary* formation covers more than one-third of the whole colony. The vast alluvial plains were formed during the Pliocene and Post-Pliocene periods. The alluvial deposits are of variable thickness, sometimes shallow; but in the great plains, between the main rivers which intersect the country, the deposits are of very great depth.

IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC FORMATION.

The area occupied by this formation comprises one-eighth of the colony—the principal rocks belonging to the series consisting of varieties of granite, quartz, porphyry and felstone, diorite, basalt, and serpentine. The granite formation occurs for the most part in the northern and southern masses of the Great Dividing Range, but is found outcropping throughout the Silurian deposits, which cover so large a part of the centre of the colony. Diorite and basalt occur principally in the country between the Macleay and Manning Rivers, and on both slopes of the Liverpool Range, between the upper waters of the Namoi and Macleay. Serpentine is found scattered in different parts of the colony, chiefly at Gundagai, Bingara, Lucknow, Nundle, Yulgilbar on the Clarence River, and Port Macquarie. The granites, quartz, porphyries and felstones have been recognised as belonging to the Palæozoic age, whilst the volcanic rocks, basalts, and others are chiefly contemporaneous with the tertiary series. At Kiama there is an immense development of interbedded basalt lavas and tuffs in the Permo-Carboniferous rocks.

ARTESIAN WATER.

Before actual boring operations proved that the belief was well founded, it had long been scientifically demonstrated that there was every probability of water being obtained in the Cretaceous formation which underlies the whole of the north-west portion of the colony—a region favoured with only a sparse rainfall; and from an examination which has lately been made of this formation occurring in the western and north-western portions of the colony, it is considered probable that the artesian water-bearing basin will be found to extend much further southwards than it was previously supposed to do. It may yet be found to extend approximately along the course of the lower Darling, and possibly below the Tertiary rocks of the north-western portion of Victoria, and part of South Australia.

It was not until 1879 that artesian boring was attempted in South Wales. In that year operations were begun at Kallara, a st lying between Bourke and Wilcannia. The supply was tapped depth of 140 feet, and the effluent water rose to a height of 26 In 1884 the Department of Mines put down its first bore in sear water, a small supply of which was reached at 89 feet. Since much work has been done, both by the Government and by pr enterprise. Recently an important discovery was made by the Go ment Geologist of the colony, namely, that artesian water is obtai in other than Cretaceous rocks. This is borne out by palæontol evidence, and some of the most successful bores, such as tho Coonamble, Moree, Gil Gil (Moree to Boggabilla), and Euroka (W to Coonamble) have pierced rocks of Triassic age, corresponding the Ipswich coal-measures.

On the 31st October, 1897, there were 61 completed Govern bores, while 12 were in progress, and contracts had been let for o Of those completed, there are 38 flowing, yielding a supply of ap mately 26,000,000 gallons per diem, and 17 from which a sup 750,000 gallons per diem can be pumped; but in the remaining 6 the search for water suitable for drinking purposes has been unsucce The deepest bore sunk in the colony is that at Dolgelly, on the from Moree to Boggabilla, which is down 4,086 feet, yielding a fl 1,500,000 gallons per diem. The next in depth is the Bancanya on Silverton-Cobham Road, being 3,510 feet deep. The largest has been obtained at the Euroka bore, on the road from Walg Coonamble, which yields approximately 4,000,000 gallons per diem

The water from the Government bores, over and above that req for travelling stock and domestic use, is being used for irrig purposes, and much has already been accomplished in this dire At the Pera bore, 8 miles from Bourke, on the Wanaaring Ro area of 57 acres has been reserved for an experimental farm. remainder of the land has been cut up into 20-acre blocks, all bu of which which have been let under the homestead selection prov of the Crown Lands Act of 1895. Good results have attended the of irrigation at this place, as well as at other bores, especially th the Bourke to Barringun Road. Farms will shortly be open at bore, Woollabra bore (Moree to Narrabri), Tenandra bore (War Coonamble), and Euroka bore (Walgett to Coonamble), where the l being surveyed for special lease in small areas, to which water w delivered from the bores by the Government. At each place a c area will be reserved for experimental cultivation. Further refere this subject will be found in the chapter on "Agricultural Produc

There are, in addition to the Government bores, 107 com private bores, which yield an aggregate supply of 25,000,000 g per diem.

FAUNA.

MAMMALS.

T the present time, mammals are represented in Australia by the Monotremes, the Marsupials, a dog, and many rats and bats, as well y the marine aquatic animals—whales, seals, and the dugong.

he Monotremes, which are confined to Australia, Tasmania, and Guinea, comprise the duck-billed platypus (*Ornithorhynchus inus*) and the native porcupines (*Echidna* and *Proechidna*). The ypus—the "mallangong" and "tambrit" of the aboriginals—bits Australia and Tasmania, and is one of the most interesting als known. The male is much larger than the female, and may be nguished by the horny spur on the hind foot being of very large The total length of the male is 24 inches, while the female seldom eds 19 inches. In colour, the platypus is of a deep brown above, of a greyish or yellowish white below, the fur being close and ety. The muzzle is produced into a broad, flattened beak, which is red during life with a delicate and sensitive skin; the tail is well loped, broad and flattened; and the feet are modified into swimming ns, the five toes being extensively webbed; while the teeth, which nlike those of any other existing mammal, are shed early in life, place being taken by a series of horny plates. As a mammal, the ypus is chiefly interesting because of the fact that it lays eggs. e are white in appearance; usually two in number, although three even four are sometimes laid at one time; and in texture they are ar to the eggs produced by reptiles. When hatched, the naked and ess young are nourished on their mother's milk, as in the case of ammals. The nest of the platypus is formed at the end of a burrow, h is reached by two openings—one above and the other below the ce of the water.

e Echidnas are also egg-laying, but differ from the platypus in that emales carry their two eggs in a pouch, where they are hatched by warmth of the body. The common echidna (*E. aculeata*) is cterised by having the fur thickly mingled with spines, which times conceal the hair beneath. The muzzle is produced into a cylindrical beak, which during no period is known to possess teeth; dmirably adapted to protect and assist the worm-like extensile ne. The feet are stout, unwebbed, and furnished with five powerful . The tail is short and conical. Several species have been described, but modern zoologists are inclined to consider them a geographical varieties. Regarded thus, the echidna ranges from south-east New Guinea, throughout Australia, to Tasmania. Those echidn which are generically named *Proechidna* are distinguished by possessin only three toes on each foot, and by having a much curved beak o great length. Two species are known, both of which are confined t New Guinea.

The marsupials, to which class belong the great majority of Australian mammals, are distinguished by the young being produced in an extremely imperfect state of development, and nurtured frequently in an abdominal pouch for a lengthy period. In bush districts it is a common belief that the young are produced on the teat; this, however, is quite erroneous, for they are born in the usual manner and afterwards applied to the teat by the mother. Australia is the great home of the marsupials, but they also occur in Tasmania and New Guinea, and have overflown into neighbouring islands. In America marsupials are also found, but there they are represented by a single family—the *Didelphyidæ*. The habits and conditions assumed by the marsupials are very varied. They are divided into seven families, namely, the *Macropodidæ*, *Phalangeridæ*, and *Phascolomyidæ*, constituting the sub-order of Diprotodonts, so named from the fact that the animals included possess only two front teeth in the lower jaw; and the *Peramelidæ*, *Dasyuridæ*, *Notoryctidæ*, and *Didelphyidæ*, constituting the sub-order of Polyprotodonts, distinguished by having six or more such teeth.

1. *Macropodidæ.*—This family includes the kangaroos, wallabys, tree kangaroos, and rat kangaroos. The kangaroos are so well known that they do not require more than a passing notice. They vary in size from the great grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), as large as a man, to the little musk kangaroo (*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*), which can easily be concealed in the pocket. Their hind limbs are very long, and progression is chiefly effected by hopping, the long tail meanwhile acting as a balancer. The tree kangaroos of Queensland and New Guinea are among the most notable of the family, climbing tall trees, even to the most slender branches. Less frequently observed upon the ground than the others, their limbs are more equal in length.

2. *Phalangeridæ.*—Under this name are included the Australian opossums, the flying opossums, the flying mouse (one of the smallest marsupials), and the clumsy native bear—all tolerably well-known forms.

3. *Phascolomyidæ.*—The wombats, of which there are three species, are heavily-made, short-limbed animals. They excavate huge burrows in the ground, and feed upon grass and other herbage. They inhabit Australia and Tasmania.

4. *Peramelidæ.*—The bandicoots, found in Australia and New Guinea, are assigned to three genera—*Peragale*, *Perameles*, and *Chœropus*. Members of the first-named are known as rabbit bandicoots, or beilbys while the second genus includes the true bandicoots, whose form an

habits are sufficiently well known. The pig-footed bandicoot (*Chæropus castanotis*) is generically separated on account of the unique and peculiar structure of the four feet, which have a striking resemblance to those of the pig.

5. *Dasyuridæ.*—The animals included in this family are the marsupial carnivora, so to speak, and are familiar as native cats (*Dasyurus*) and pouched mice (*Phascologale* and *Sminthopsis*). These forms occur in Tasmania, New Guinea, and adjacent islands, as well as in Australia. The most formidable of the group are the Tasmanian tiger or wolf (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) and the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*) which are confined at the present day to the colony indicated.

6. *Notoryctidæ.*—The recent finding of a mole-like animal in Australia is one of the most interesting discoveries of the day. The marsupial mole is in no way connected with the European mole, but nevertheless has acquired many similar habits—affording a valuable lesson in parallelism in development. It is known only from central South Australia.

7. *Didelphyidæ.*—These are the true opossums, and being confined to America, need not be further mentioned here.

Dogs and seals form the carnivora of Australia. The dog family (*Canidæ*) is represented by the dingo, or native dog (*Canis dingo*), called by the aboriginals "worregal"; dingo being only the aboriginal name for the domestic dog introduced by Europeans. The native dog is found in all parts of the Australian mainland, and will inbreed with the domestic dog, crosses being common throughout the settlements. It is questionable whether the dingo is indigenous, or whether it has been introduced from abroad. It was undoubtedly acclimatised before the arrival of the first white settlers. The dingo does not bark, its temper is intractable, and it works great havoc among the flocks of the settlers.

The *Rodentia* finds representatives in many species of native rats, the more typical ones of which belong to the genus *Mus*, and the Jerboa-like forms to the genus *Conilurus*. The familiar water rat is known as *Hydromys chrysogaster*.

The *Chiroptera* are well in evidence, and include the flying-foxes and many insectivorous bats. The common flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) is met with in the brush lands, but it haunts the neighbourhood of towns during the fruit season, making great depredations among the orchards and gardens.

Of seals (*Pinnipedia*), the species found off the coast of New South Wales are the Australian sea bear or eared seal (*Otaria forsteri*), and the sea leopard (*Ogmorhinus leptonyx*), the former being a sociable and the latter a solitary species.

Among other mammals belonging to New South Wales, or found contiguous to its coasts, are representatives of the orders Cetacea and Sirenia, the first comprising whales, porpoises, and dolphins; and the second, manatees and dugongs. Whales have always haunted the coasts of the colony, and formerly a brisk trade was carried on in oil and whalebone; Twofold Bay, about 208 miles south of Sydney, being the chief seat of the industry. Among the whalebone-whales which inhabit our waters may be mentioned the Southern right whale (*Balæna australis*), the pigmy whale (*Neobalæna marginata*), and the Sulphur-bottom (*Balænoptera huttoni*); while of sperm whales there are the gigantic *Physeter macrocephalus*, *Mesoplodon layardi*, and *Kogia breviceps*. The dolphin of our waters, commonly called "porpoise," is not distinguishable from the common and cosmopolitan form, *Delphinus delphis*. The order Sirenia is represented by the dugong (*Halicore dugong*), but it is now seldom seen south of Moreton Bay. Its flesh is highly valued by the natives, and its oil is a good substitute for cod-liver oil.

Besides those already mentioned, geological research has brought to light the remains of numerous extinct species of gigantic mammalia. The largest fossil marsupial, the *Diprotodon australis*, an herbivorous monster, was as large as the rhinoceros, and related to the native bear or the wombat. Its bones have been found distributed generally throughout eastern and southern Australia. Fossil remains of another large marsupial, the *Nototherium*, named by the late W. S. Macleay the *Zygomaturus*, have also been found, as well as of a member of the family of the *Phascolomyidæ*, or wombats, and of a marsupial rodent-like animal, named the *Sceparnodon*. In the bone-breccia of the Wellington Valley Caves were found the bones of gigantic kangaroos (*Macropus titan*), which have been placed in the genera *Palorchestes*, *Procoptodon*, *Protemnodon*, and *Sthenurus*; besides those of the *Thylacoleo carnifex* and the true *Thylacinus*. The Wellington Valley Caves have also yielded fossil remains of a "porcupine" (*Echidna*) and a platypus (*Ornithorhynchus*), belonging to the order Monotremata.

REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS.

First among the reptiles may be mentioned the snakes. Although there are very many species of both venemous and harmless snakes, there are only about five which are actually harmful. The deadly snakes of the colony are as follow:—

1. The black snake—*Pseudechis porphyriacus*.
2. The brown snake—*Diemenia textilis*.
3. The tiger or brown-banded snake—*Notechis scutatus*.
4. The superb or copper-headed snake—*Denisonia superba*.
5. The death adder—*Acanthophis antarctica*.

To these should be added several sea snakes not infrequently found on the coast. Nearly all of these are highly venomous.

The largest of the harmless species are true pythons, known as the diamond and carpet snakes (*Python spilotes*). Of tree snakes the commonest is *Dendrophis punctulatus.*

Lizards may be said to swarm. The goanas, of which the *Varanus varius* attains a length of 6 feet or more, are the largest kind. Other familiar forms are the blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides* and *T. nigro-lutea*), the Jew-lizard (*Amphibolurus barbatus*), the water lizard (*Physignathus lesueurii*), and the spiny lizard (*Egernia cunninghami*). The best-known gecko is the rock gecko (*Gymnodactylus platurus*), a harmless, though curious, little creature, much feared by those ignorant of its nature.

The tortoises are semi-aquatic, and belong to the genera *Chelodina* and *Emydura.* Although two species of crocodile frequent the rivers of Queensland, they are fortunately absent on the New South Wales side of the border.

Of Batrachians, there are no newts nor salamanders on the continent, but of frogs there is an immense choice, the tree frogs (*Hyla*) and the swamp frogs (*Limnodynastes*) being the most familiar forms.

BIRDS.

Few countries can boast of a greater variety of beautiful birds than New South Wales, all the more important orders and families of the class Aves being represented in the fauna of the colony. In the Australian continent and the adjacent islands no less than 770 species of birds have been discovered, some of which are especially interesting, and among these may be mentioned the lyre-bird (*Menura superba*), the satin bower-bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), the fawn-breasted bower-bird (*Chlamydodera cerviniventris*), and the tooth-billed bower-builder (*Scenopœus dentirostris*); the mound-building malleefowl (*Lipoa ocellata*), the mound-building brush-fowl (*Talegallus lathami*), and the collared plain-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). Many of the Australian birds, besides being beautifully plumaged, are no mean songsters, and others again are possessed of remarkable powers of mimicry and ventriloquism.

The order Accipitres is well represented in New South Wales, twenty-six out of the twenty-eight species inhabiting Australia being found in the colony. The largest of all our birds of prey is the wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*). In many parts of the colony this fine bird is included in the list of noxious animals and birds, in consequence of the destruction which it causes amongst lambs, but in the dingo and rabbit infested districts it is protected by land-owners on account of the effectual service which it renders in keeping these pests in check. Another useful bird is the black-breasted kite (*Gypoictinia melanosternon*), frequenting the inland districts. As many as thirty rabbit skulls have been found under a nest of a pair of these birds containing young. The white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliætus leucogaster*) and the white-headed osprey (*Pand leucocephalus*) frequent the bays and inlets of our coast, while seve species of hawks, eagles, harriers, kites, and a kestrel are found inla The sub-order Striges, or nocturnal birds of prey, is represented by ei species. Chief among these are the great owl of the brushes (*Ath strenua*) and the sooty owl (*Strix tenebricosa*), found in the coa districts.

The order Psittaci is especially numerous, and includes many beauti species of cockatoos, parrots, parrakeets, and lorikeets. Among larger species are the white and black cockatoos, yellow and pi crested; and the grey pink-crested gallah. The parrot family is a especially strong, some of the most notable members being the love-bi (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), the green parrot, and many kinds of lor all gorgeously plumaged.

The order Picariæ, which embraces swifts, kingfishers, cuckoos, e includes one very remarkable specimen, viz., the great kingfisher, gobu or laughing-jackass, so called from its extraordinary mocking laugh. is one of the most valuable of birds, being the determined enemy a persistent destroyer of small reptiles. The mopoke, or boobook (*Podargus strigoides*), is also a characteristic member of this or which includes the owlet night-jar, the dollar bird, and several spe of kingfishers.

The order Passeres comprises swallows, crows, rifle-birds, honey-eate finches, pittas, etc. This is the largest order of birds in Austral and the finest, if not the most beautiful, family is the *Menuridæ*. N South Wales possesses a handsome species of this remarkable Austral bird, called from the shape of its tail the lyre-bird (*Menura superba*). is to be found chiefly in the fern gullies and brush-forests of the colo To the order Passeres belong also the crow-shrikes of the genera *Cracti* and *Gymnorhina*, the beautifully-plumaged regent birds (*Sericu melinus*), whip-birds (*Psophodes crepitans*), swallows, martins, diamo birds, fly-catchers, fan-tails, wedge-bills, thick-heads, robins—red-capp red-breasted, and yellow; "superb warblers," emu-wrens, mead pipits, bristle-birds, grass, crimson, and painted finches; pittas, grou thrushes, bower-builders, cat-birds, rock-warblers, and honey-eat (*Meliphagidæ*). Worthy of special notice in this large order of bi are the bower-builders. Three species of these extraordinary a interesting birds are found in the colony. The brilliantly-pluma regent-bird (*Sericulus melinus*), which forms the most primitive bow or playing-place, frequents the dense coastal brushes of the northe rivers; the satin bower-bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), is found the scrubs and mountain-ranges of eastern New South Wales; and spotted bower-bird (*Chlamydodera maculata*), inhabits the grassy pla and lightly-timbered country inland. Scattered about the entrances the bowers of the last two species are pieces of bleached bone, la shells, bright feathers, bits of looking-glass, coins, or any bright obj which the birds may pick up in the bush.

The order Columbæ is largely represented in the colony, especially in the great primæval forests of the coast districts. In the cedar brushes of the Liverpool Range white-headed fruit pigeons are very numerous; and in the brush-forests of the Clarence, the Richmond, the Macleay, and Illawarra, the top-knot and large-tailed pigeons, and the wonga-wonga (*Leucosarcia picata*), so prized for its large size and the whiteness and delicacy of its flesh, are very plentiful. The bronze-winged pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*), is common to almost all parts of the colony. Several species of these birds are remarkable for their beautiful plumage, their size, and the excellence of their flesh. One of the finest species, the partridge bronze-winged pigeon (*Geophaps scripta*), is found almost exclusively in the plains of the interior. Doves are also numerous, and most of the species are extremely delicate and beautiful. The little turtle-dove of the inland districts (*Geopelia cuneata*) is the prettiest specimen of this family.

The game birds found in the colony belong to the orders Gallinæ and Hemipodii. The former is represented by the wattled talegallus (*Talegallus lathami*), found in the northern coastal scrubs and contiguous mountain ranges, and the mallee fowl (*Lipoa ocellata*), inhabiting the inland districts. Both of these birds belong to the family *Megapodiidæ*, or mound-raising birds, and deposit their eggs in a scraped-up heap of leaves, decaying vegetable matter, and sand. To this order also belong the stubble quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), the swamp quail (*Synoicus australis*), and the king quail (*Excalfatoria lineata*), the last-named species being probably the smallest game bird in the world. The order Hemipodii, which by some authorities is included in the Gallinæ, is represented by four species of turnix, commonly known as quail, and the remarkable collared plain wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*).

The order Grallatores includes many genera, and to it belongs the Australian bustard, commonly known as the Plain turkey (*Eupodotis australis*), as well as the waders, such as stilts, water-crakes, ibises, dotterels, gallinules, spoon-bills, herons, bitterns, and many others.

Among water-birds, Natatores, are enormous numbers of wild-fowl of all descriptions, ducks, geese, grebes, as well as black swans. The latter is essentially an Australian bird, and may be met with in all parts of the continent. The order embraces, also, the large and very varied species of sea-birds frequenting the coast, such, for instance, as albatrosses, gulls, petrels, and cormorants.

The order Struthiones, or running birds, is represented by the emu (*Dromaius novæ-hollandiæ*), the largest bird in this part of the globe, and one, unfortunately, rapidly being exterminated.

Besides the birds mentioned above, there are others of perhaps less note, but numerous, and frequently very beautiful. They are all admirably described and depicted in the celebrated work of Mr. Gould, which occupies a high rank amongst the scientific publications of the century.

FISHES.

According to the late Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, S.J., no less than different families of fishes, comprising 348 species, frequent the of New South Wales. These are enumerated in the subjoined tabl

Name of family.	No. of species.	Name of family.	No. of species.
Percidæ	50	Ophiocephalidæ	1
Squamipinnes	4	Trachypteridæ	1
Nandidæ	2	Pomæcentridæ	4
Mullidæ	3	Labridæ	18
Sparidæ	14	Gadopsidæ	1
Cirrhitidæ	6	Gadidæ	4
Scorpænidæ	11	Pleuronectidæ	9
Teuthididæ	2	Siluriidæ	5
Berycidæ	3	Scopelidæ	6
Kurtidæ	2	Salmonidæ	1
Polynemidæ	2	Galaxiidæ	7
Sciænidæ	2	Scombresocidæ	6
Xiphiidæ	1	Clupeidæ	12
Trichiuridæ	1	Chirocentridæ	1
Acronuridæ	1	Symbrachidæ	1
Carangidæ	15	Murænidæ	11
Cyttidæ	1	Syngnathidæ	6
Coryphænidæ	2	Sclerodermi	21
Scombridæ	10	Gymnodontes	12
Trachinidæ	5	Carcharidæ	8
Batrachidæ	1	Lamnidæ	1
Pediculati	4	Scyllidæ	3
Cottidæ	7	Cestraciontidæ	2
Cataphracti	1	Spinacidæ	1
Gobiidæ	15	Rhinidæ	1
Blenniidæ	17	Pristiophoridæ	1
Sphyrænidæ	3	Rhinobatidæ	2
Atherinidæ	4	Trygonidæ	3
Mugilidæ	7	Torpedinidæ	1
Fistularidæ	1	Raiidæ	1

The edible fishes comprise 105 different species; amongst the known may be mentioned :

The schnapper (*Pagrus unicolor*), the most valuable of all Austr fishes, is found along the whole extent of the coast, and is very a dant. It is a deep-water fish, found generally near rocky point reefs running out into the sea. The schnappers "school," as termed, during the summer months, and are then most plentiful. young fish, known as red bream, frequents the harbours and estu of the coast, but is never found in shallow water. The schnapp caught by the hook, which it takes freely, as it will attack almost bait. It sometimes attains a very large size, weighing as much as 3 The fish cures well, and is said to be equal to the finest cod, and every respect superior to ling.

The nannigai is a deep-water fish, caught with the hook, and ranks high in public estimation as an edible fish. The supply is not large, as the fish is not specially sought after, being chiefly obtained by fishermen in search of schnapper. The nannigai is scientifically interesting as one of the oldest forms of bony-fishes now surviving.

The black rock-cod is considered one of the best of Australian fish, and is also a deep-water fish, never captured by the net. It grows to a great size, specimens from 35 lb. to 40 lb. being not uncommon, whilst fish weighing over 100 lb. are met with in the markets. It is found more abundantly in the warmer waters of the north of the colony, where, as a rule, it attains larger proportions than to the southward of Sydney. In the vicinity of the islands lying off the New South Wales coast—the Seal Rocks, Solitaries, Elizabeth Reef, and Lord Howe Island—the black rock-cod may be taken in almost any quantity, and of the largest size.

A fish of great size and beauty, known in Australia as the salmon, is found off the coast in prodigious quantities. It has no affinity whatever to the true salmon, and is inferior as an article of food.

The flat-head, a fine fish, of which there are several varieties, is captured both by the hook and net. It is of excellent quality, and ranks high amongst New South Wales fishes.

There are four species of whiting found in these waters. The common sand-whiting and the trumpeter-whiting are both very abundant, but the other two species are more rare. The sand-whiting is perhaps the fish most in demand in the metropolitan markets, where it is to be obtained all the year round.

The jew-fish is the largest edible fish found on the New South Wales coast, attaining sometimes a length of 5 feet. It is found at all seasons, but most frequently during summer. The teraglin is of the same family as the jew-fish, though it does not reach an equal size. The air bladder is large and of excellent quality, being of great value for the making of isinglass.

The mackerel is obtained in enormous quantities off the coast, and ometimes even in the harbours. It is a good fish when eaten fresh, but decomposes rapidly.

The family of Mugilidæ, or mullets, is well represented in Australian aters. The sea mullet is a large fish, often attaining a length of 2 feet, nd a weight of 8 lb. It is regarded by some authorities as unsurpassed richness and delicacy of flavour by any fish in the world; and it isits these shores in countless numbers in the season when it is in the est condition. When young the fish keeps entirely to the creeks and kes, where it increases in size very rapidly, but when full-grown it eks the open waters.

There are four species of gar-fish found on the New South Wales ast. The Sydney gar-fish is very abundant, especially towards the end summer, making its appearance in shoals, sometimes of enormous size. The river gar-fish is even of better quality than the last mentioned, but it is not so plentiful as formerly. The other species are seldom met with. There are numerous other varieties of fishes found in the waters of New South Wales, many of which are very valuable as articles of food, but for the most part they are neither so numerous nor so easily obtained as those referred to.

Destructive fishes are by no means rare, the shark family being largely represented, not only in the deep sea, off the coast, but even in the harbours. The shark is not, however, absolutely valueless. The fins find a ready sale in the Chinese markets; the skin also has some commercial value; while from the liver is extracted a large quantity of valuable oil, equal in every respect to cod-liver oil.

Several varieties of fishes which have long disappeared from other parts of the world are still represented in New South Wales. Amongst these is the cestracion, or Port Jackson shark, whose teeth resemble those of the fossil acrodis found in the mesozoic deposits.

During the season the Australian waters teem with herrings, the season of immigration being the last six months of the year. There are four species, but two only are of commercial importance, though a more accurate knowledge of the composition of the shoals might lead to the discovery of other valuable species. The most valuable of this family of fishes is the pilchard. The Australian pilchard in a fresh state is equal in excellence to the Atlantic pilchard, and there is every reason to suppose that it can be obtained in quantities sufficient to enable competition to be entered into with the bloater and sardine of Europe. The maray also pass northward at the same time as the pilchard, and in like prodigious numbers, but both species keep well away from the shore.

The rivers of the colony produce some most excellent specimens of fresh-water fish. The Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Darling are the most plentifully stocked, the Murray cod (*Oligorus Mitchelli*), being perhaps the most highly esteemed of their fishes. Another fish of the same species is the *Oligorus Macquariensis*, which is to be met with in the upper branches of the Clarence. Specimens of both these varieties of fresh-water cod have been found weighing as much as 100 lb. The silver perch, and several kinds of the Percidæ family, so highly prized for their delicacy, are plentiful in the rivers. In the Richmond River the cat-fish (*Copidoglanis Tandanus*) is very common, whilst herrings and mullet are caught in almost all the eastern rivers of the colony.

Little systematic attempt has yet been made to acclimatise Europea varieties of edible fishes, although success would most probably atten any efforts in this direction, every difficulty having been overcome i Victoria, New Zealand, and Tasmania. Large quantities of trout ov have been distributed in various localities, including the Prospec Reservoir.

MOLLUSCA.

The first of local shell-fish in economic interest is the oyster. Two kinds occur on the coast of New South Wales—a large one, considered to be a form of the English oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), and popularly known as the mud oyster; and a smaller sort, the rock oyster (*O. glomerata*).

The mud oyster reaches in Sydney the northern limit of its range, and fails to attain here to the luxuriant growth which it exhibits in cooler climates. The prolific beds of Stewart's Island, New Zealand, furnish a large proportion of the supply of mud oysters for the Australian markets. This oyster prefers deep and muddy places, where it may attain a length of 8 inches. Nowhere is it now abundant, and, indeed, it seems to be approaching extinction. The blacks formerly feasted upon it, but connoisseurs of the superior race disparage it as large and coarse.

Unlike the mud oyster, the rock oyster is well suited to cultivation. In Southern Queensland, favoured alike by more congenial climate, extensive tracts of shoal and sheltered water, and appropriate legislation, the cultivation of this species has been most successful. The beds in Moreton Bay supply not only the local demand, but also the requirements of the southern capitals. Though falling short of the perfection reached by the cultivation of the Bay of Biscay and the New York coast, the management of the Queensland oyster-beds excels that of any other Australian fishery. When accurate details of the mode of breeding of the rock oyster shall have been found by exact scientific inquiry, a further impetus will be given to this flourishing industry. At present all that is known is that in its habits the Australian rock oyster differs altogether from the English and American kinds. Incidentally, it may be remarked that the English oyster cannot be consumed in May, June, July, and August, but the Pacific oyster is in season all the year round. From the chapter on "Fisheries" it will be seen that large quantities of oysters are imported into the colony every year, and it is evident, therefore, that the local market will afford ample support to the cultivators of the bays and deltas of northern New South Wales. The obstacles to success are floods and shifting sandbanks, and the depredations of boring worms and whelks; while among the advantages of this lucrative occupation are the quickness of returns and the smallness of capital required.

Quantities of spat are thrown off at various times, but especially heavy falls occur in the spring, after which the rocks between tide-marks may be literally plastered with young shells of the size of a shilling. The great majority of these perish; those surviving reach maturity in about twelve months, and probably increase in size for two or three years. When adult, their length is about 3 inches. Typically, they have sharply-waved, black-purple edges. Form and colour, however, are so altered by environment that specimens from different situations have been given different names. That they are really one kind is, however, proved by taking a young purple and crumple-edged shell from a position on rocks washed by waves, and placing it on a zostera flat in calm water. Here it developes a thin, white, smooth and large shell; so that one shell may show one form at one end and another at the other, the line of junction marking the period of transference.

No shell-fish other than oysters are regularly consumed in New South Wales, the Australian inheriting and accentuating the British distaste for such small game. Occasionally, however, there are exposed for sale at the Sydney fish market the whelk (*Potamides ebeninum*) and the cockle (*Area trapezia*), the former being cooked, and the latter eaten either cooked or raw. Both the whelk and the cockle are used as bait, but neither is at all like its English namesake. Probably their use as food is restricted to the Greek and Italian element of the Sydney population. The mutton fish, or "abalone" of Californian markets (*Haliotis naevosa*), is consumed by the Chinese, who, it is said, also collect it for export; but the ordinary citizen is unacquainted with it. The "ugarie," commonly miscalled by Sydney anglers by the Maori name of "pipi" (*Donax deltoides*), is frequently used for bait, rarely for food. As an article of diet, various squid (*Sepia cultrata, S. mestus*, &c.) are left to the foreign and coloured of the local sea-faring population, but as bait their good qualities are better appreciated. The beaches of New South Wales are not rich in ornamental shells, but the exquisite and rare "king-cockle" (*Trigonia lamarckii*) from Sydney Harbour is a valued gem, and, as a brooch, may often be seen worn.

Of pests in this division of natural history, the local species of ship-worm, the "cobra" (*Teredo saulii*), has wrought great damage amongst shipping, wharfs, and piers. It is a far larger and more destructive species than any occurring in European waters. In gardens, the common European snail, the "limaçon" dear to the French epicure (*Helix aspersa*), has now obtained a firm footing, and ravages flowers and vegetables alike.

CRUSTACEA.

The crustacean fauna of New South Wales is extremely rich in species, but only about twelve kinds are used as an article of diet. Of these, six are fairly common and highly esteemed as food, and are as follow:—

Common Swimming Crab (*Neptunus pelagicus*, Linn.).—This is the commonest crab offered for sale in Sydney. It often attains a weight of 2 or 3 lb., and is always in great demand, finding a ready sale at prices varying from 3d. to 9d. each. The principal supplies are obtained in Sydney Harbour, and from Botany Bay. The shell or carapace of this species is very broad, and ornamented on the front edge with y-four spines. Six of these are situated between the eyes, and n each side, the last being much larger than the others.

mming Crab (*Goniosoma crucifera*, Fabr.).—This species is not n, although it may be seen exposed for sale in large numbers some months of the year. It attains to a size slightly exceeding eeding species. The claws are shorter, stouter, and the spines on ns large, compressed, and tooth-like. The front edge of the shell d with twenty spines—six on each side and eight between the The colour is "reddish, with yellowish spots and bands, of which ddle one represents a cross."

grove Crab (*Scylla serrata*, Forsk.).—This is the largest and most le crab obtained on our coast. Unfortunately, it is not common; fairly large number have been exposed for sale during the last ars. The price ranges from 1s. to 2s. 6d. each. The main s are obtained from Botany Bay. In this species the claws are rge; the front edge of the shell is armed with twenty-four nearly pines; and the back of the shell is convex and smooth. The of the mangrove crab when alive is olive-brown. It inhabits les in the mud, and comes out at low tide to feed.

ey Craw-fish (*Palinurus Hügelii*, Heller).—The craw-fish, or (as it is usually called), is very abundant along the whole coast-t the chief supplies are obtained at Port Stephens. It is by far gest and most valuable of all the crustaceans of New South often attaining to 8 or 10 lb. in weight. Between four and five nd dozen are sold annually in the wholesale markets at prices g from 1s. to 20s. per dozen.

cond species is often seen offered for sale—the "Southern Craw-*alinurus Lelandii*), which is equal to the Sydney craw-fish as an of food, although usually much smaller. It may readily be ished by the highly-sculptured segments of the abdomen, and numerous hairs surrounding the bases of the spines.

r Cray-fish (*Astacopsis serratus*, Shaw).—The cray-fish is seldom for sale in Sydney, but it is much used as food along the banks inland rivers. These crustaceans often attain to a foot or more th, and are highly prized in the winter season, when they are in est condition.

mon or Sand Prawn (*Penaeus canaliculatus*, Olivier).—The n prawn is obtained in large quantities during the greater part year, but in midwinter there is at times a falling-off in the supply, ices rise accordingly. In addition to the demand for consumption l, this prawn is much used as bait, and frequently fetches very ices in times of scarcity. Large specimens often reach 8 or 9 in length. The principal supplies are obtained from Sydney r, Botany, and Cape Hawke. The species may be recognised by p grooves which extend along each side of the beak or rostrum hinder margin of the carapace, and by the rostrum, which is above with ten or twelve spines and with one below.

Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus Monodon*, Fabr.).—The tiger prawn is a which appears to frequent the coast at irregular intervals. Occasi it is captured in abundance in Sydney Harbour and at Botany. species may be readily identified by the numerous dark-coloured bands on the body and by the rostrum or beak, which has six or teeth above and three or four below.

River Prawn (*Penaeus Macleayi*, Haswell).—The river prawn so large as the two preceding species, seldom exceeding 4 or 5 inc length. It is, however, very abundant, and appears to be obta during the whole of the year. The rostrum of this species has six teeth above, but none below—a character which renders it e separate it from other forms.

FLORA

THE surface of New South Wales presents a vegetation characterised by little variation in form and colour. The dense foliage and varieties of tints with which the Old World is familiar are alike wanting in Australia, where the dull evergreen leaves alter little with the changes of the seasons. What the flora of the country lacks in picturesqueness it, however, makes up in usefulness. The task of collecting, describing, and classifying the Australian flora has been undertaken by several eminent scientists, amongst whom are Bentham, Mueller, and Hooker. The "Flora Australiensis" of the two first named of these botanists, Hooker's "Flora of Tasmania," the "Census of Australian Plants" and the "Eucalyptographia" of Baron von Mueller, are works of standard value. In dealing, however, with the description of the varied specimens of plant life found in Australia, there remained the task of describing those species whose properties rendered them capable of application to industrial life. To Mr. J. H. Maiden, Director of the Botanic Gardens, the colony is indebted for an excellent classification of those varieties which properly belong to Australian economic botany. The total number of specimens so far described now exceeds 3,000, and it will probably appear to many as a revelation that the country should possess resources so varied and elements of wealth so promising, and at the same time so singularly neglected. The classification is as follows :—

1. Human food and food adjuncts.
2. Forage plants—
    - *a.* Grasses.
    - *b.* Exclusive of grasses, and including plants injurious to stock.
3. Drugs.
4. Gums, resins, and kinos—
    - *a.* Gums.
    - *b.* Resins.
    - *c.* Kinos.
5. Oils—
    - *a.* Volatile or essential.
    - *b.* Expressed or fixed.
6. Perfumes.
7. Dyes.
8. Tans.
9. Timbers.
10. Fibres.
11. Miscellaneous.

It does not come within the scope of this volume to deal at l with a subject so comprehensive as economic botany ; it may, how be pointed out that, beyond the forage plants, some of the timber and a very limited number of oils and tans, few of the resour the colony disclosed in the foregoing list have received any pr application.

Forests extend over almost the whole area of the colony, exce portions of the Monaro, the Lachlan, the Murrumbidgee districts the trans-Darling region, where extensive treeless plains occur, cl with salt-bush, scrub, or varieties of natural grasses. The co covered by timber may be divided into three classes—open, brush scrub forests.

OPEN FORESTS.

Open forests cover the greatest portion of the surface of the c and are found in every formation. The trees met with are chiefly s of Eucalyptus, Angophora, and other genera of the order Myrtaceæ. prevalence of the eucalypti, and the large extent covered by the fo give the country a rather monotonous aspect. But the park-like a ance of the open forests, and the beauty of the many flowering s win admiration in spite of the sameness of the trees ; while eve dull, greyish blue of the foliage of the gum-trees, when relieved b yellow blossoms of the wattle, including the graceful myall, or the b ful and shapely kurrajong, is not without its attractiveness. The are for the most part straight and cylindrical in the trunk, and full grown their first branch is at a considerable height from the gr The roots of the eucalyptus lie at no great distance from the s soil, an adaptation of nature to the peculiar climatic conditions country. The finest specimens of most of the timber trees, those yi the most valuable timber, are found on ridges and hill sides, in frequently too rough and stony for cultivation. This circumsta in many ways fortunate for the colony. In the course of settle when the rich plains are denuded of their trees, and when scarcit make timber more appreciated than it is at present, land not adapt agricultural settlement will still be available for the cultivation finest trees. It would be impossible, in the limits of this volu enumerate all the trees which are of commercial value ; but a list best known varieties will not be without interest.

On the river flats immense specimens of flooded gum (*E. rostrat* apple-trees (*Angophora subvelutina*) mark the course of the str The flooded gum grows to a height of 100 feet, and its wood is useful for heavy work, and for structures liable to attack by the ant. The apple-tree has more spread than the majority of indig trees, and its wood is strong, heavy, and durable. The distribut the species is very extensive.

On the ridges and mountain sides other varieties of trees predominate. The box reaches 180 feet in height, with a thickness of 6 feet, and the timber is used chiefly for firewood, for which purpose it has no superior.

The bastard box, supposed to be a cross between the box and the grey gum, is widely distributed over the colony. The quality of the timber varies greatly, according to the place of growth; some varieties are surpassed amongst hardwoods by nothing except ironbark.

Ironbark (*E. leucoxylon* and *E. paniculata*) is a tree of moderate size, usually, when full grown, from 60 to 80 feet in height, though the white ironbark attains a height of 150 feet. The timber is heavy, and renowned for its great strength, fine specimens bearing a tensile strain nearly twice as great as the best oak. The timber is used most extensively for wharfs and bridges, as also for housework. Ironbark is very widely distributed, and frequently grows to perfection on the poorest soil. The ironbark and box are slow-growing trees as compared with many other varieties of eucalyptus, such as the blue gum, the latter attaining a great height in a very few years.

The blue gum (*E. globulus*), one of the finest of the eucalyptus tribe, is only met with in portions of the southern table-land, but the blue gum (*E. goniocalyx*), also called flooded gum, grows extensively in the coastal districts. It attains a good height, and is rather thicker in the trunk than most varieties of gum-trees, sometimes reaching 7 feet in diameter. The timber is greatly in demand owing to its comparative lightness, and is easily worked, being used for all purposes to which hardwood is applied.

The spotted gum (*E. maculata*) grows in all the coast districts, and in some portions of the interior, generally where the soil is poor. This is one of the handsomest of the forest trees, and attains a height of 100 to 150 feet. The quality of the wood varies greatly, according to the habitat and the character of the soil; when good, it is considered specially adapted for ship-building.

Stringybark (*E. eugenioides*), so called from its peculiar fibrous bark, grows chiefly on the northern table-lands. It is a large tree, and its wood is of great and general utility. The bark is extensively used for roofing, and forms a very useful paper-making material.

The messmate (*E. obliqua*), also called stringybark, is one of the largest of Australian trees, being frequently met with more than 250 feet in height. It grows in the south-eastern portion of the colony. The bark is used for roofing, being similar in character to that of the tree just described; it would also form an excellent paper-making material.

The blood-wood (*E. corymbosa*) is a large tree, growing in the coastal districts of the colony. The timber is used chiefly for fencing purposes, and for railway sleepers.

The grey gum (*E. tereticornis*) grows to a height of 150 feet, and is extensively distributed over the whole of the coastal districts. It yields excellent timber, hardly inferior to ironbark. There are several varieties of this tree, some of which produce wood of remarkable beauty, and of great durability.

The tallow-wood (*E. microcorys*) is a very large tree, gro sively in the forests north of Sydney. Its wood is more easi than most of the hardwoods, and has great strength and being employed largely for floors and other building purpos the decking of ships.

The mountain ash, or white-top (*E. virgata*), is found b table-lands and in the coast districts. Its timber is in demand work, and for rough carpentry. The tree grows to about height.

The turpentine tree (*Syncarpia laurifolia*) is found mai district lying between the Shoalhaven and the Macleay. I magnificent proportions, sometimes reaching a height of 200 a diameter of 6 feet. The timber is largely used for piling, work in sea-water, as it resists the attack of the teredo bette other New South Wales timber.

BRUSH FORESTS.

The brush forests cover a considerable extent of countr coast. The trees found in them differ entirely from those c forests, and there is no lack of variety either in the chara trees or the colour of their foliage. Tall graceful fern trees, attaining a height of 60 feet, beautiful varieties of palms, cal and Moreton Bay figs of enormous proportions, are promine of the northern brushes, though these are perhaps more ornan useful. There are, however, found in the brush forests tim the greatest value.

The red and white cedar (*Cedrela australis* and *Melia* were once abundant in the northern forests, but at present full-grown trees are met with except on the high ridges. Th is a magnificent timber tree, often attaining a height of 150 girth of over 30 feet. Its timber is of great value, being l wrought, durable, splendidly grained, and well adapted fo and cabinet-making. The white cedar is a pretty tree gr height of 80 feet, with a diameter of 3 feet. Its timber easily worked, but is deficient in tensile strength and dur therefore in no great demand.

The silky oak (*Grevillea Hilliana, G. robusta*) grows to t about 80 feet, under favourable circumstances, and yields a suitable for cabinet-making.

The tulip-wood (*Harpullia pendula*) is a tall tree with marked timber of various shades, and susceptible of a fine p

The ash, or pigeonberry-tree, grows to a great height, reaching 130 feet, with a diameter of 5 feet. Its timber i tough, and in good demand.

e colonial pine (*Araucaria Cunninghamii*) is one of the finest trees stralia, sometimes reaching a height of 200 feet, with a trunk 4 thick. Its timber is extensively used, being cheaper than any ted pine ; it is white in colour, and easily wrought.

tive beech (*Gmelina Leichhardtii*) is also a tree of noble proportions, ing 150 feet in height. Its timber is greatly in demand, being ior to most native timber when exposed, as it neither shrinks nor s. In colour the wood is white or silvery, with a fine close grain.

sides the varieties mentioned above, there are in the brush forests r other trees, yielding timber of large size and of great value, but bundance of timber of other descriptions more readily accessible has rto satisfied the local demand, and the resources of these forests have almost entirely overlooked. The subject of the timber trees of the y, viewed from a commercial standpoint, is treated in detail in art dealing with forestry and fisheries.

e character of the vegetation of the brush forests alters considerably rding to the latitude. The trees of the genera Araucaria and dersia, as well as cedar and its allies, find a home chiefly in the ern parts of the colony, while many of the trees growing in the n have no representatives in the northern forests. The soil of the h lands is wonderfully fertile, consisting as it does of decomposed nic rocks, enriched by the accumulation of decayed vegetable matter, when cleared it yields an abundant return.

SCRUB FORESTS.

e scrub forests are found in the poor soils, principally in the Lachlan Darling districts. The chief genera represented are the pines, and itudinous species of acacia and eucalyptus, but although some of the s are of great beauty, they have little commercial value. The most viting portion of the colony is covered with scrub, and the mallee icts, clothed as they are with stunted timber—species of eucalyptus—ess the traveller more unfavourably than would even a barren waste.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY AND STRENGTH OF TIMBERS.

e specific gravity and resistance to breaking of various New South es timbers, and of some of the best-known European and other ties, are shown in the following table. With regard to the New h Wales timbers, it should be mentioned that the tests were made picked specimens, so that the results are perhaps considerably r than would be obtained in actual practice. The modulus of re is eighteen times the load which is required to break a bar 1 in. re, supported at two points 1 foot apart, and loaded in the middle een the points of support, or

$$s = \frac{3 W l}{2 b d^2}$$

when W = load applied at middle of beam between supports, b = bre d = depth, l = length of beam, and s = co-efficient of rupture or brea stress per square inch :—

Timber Trees.	Specific gravity.	Resistance to breaking or modulu of rupture. =s
New South Wales—		lb. per sq. inch.
Spotted gum	·995	13,300
Grey gum	·917	13,100
Flooded gum	1·178	14,800
Red gum	·995	6,900
Woollybutt	1·022	12,700
Blackbutt	1·067	13,700
White ironbark	1·177	16,900
Grey ironbark	1·182	17,900
Red ironbark	1·224	16,300
Forest oak	1·208	15,500
Turpentine	1·109	11,700
Stringybark	1·141	13,900
Blackwood	1·129	10,300
Tallow-wood	1·233	15,260
Australian teak	1·006	14,400
Mahogany	1·201	14,500
Forest mahogany	1·156	13,800
Swamp mahogany	1·216	12,100
White beech	1·008	15,600
Mountain ash	1·065	11,500
Rosewood	1·189	10,600
Pine	·868	8,800
European and other Foreign—		
Ash	·753	13,000
Beech	·690	10,500
Birch	·711	11,700
Bullet-tree	1·046	19,000
Chestnut	·535	10,660
Ebony	1·193	27,000
Elm	·544	7,900
Fir, Red pine	·48 to ·70	8,300
,, Spruce	·48 to ·70	11,100
,, Larch	·50 to ·56	7,500
Greenheart	1·001	22,000
Kauri pine (New Zealand)	·579	11,000
Lance wood	·675 to 1·01	17,350
Lignum vitæ	·65 to 1·33	12,000
Mahogany (Honduras)	·56	11,500
,, (Spanish)	·85	7,600
Oak (British)	·69 to ·99	11,800
,, (Dantzic)	·69 to ·99	8,700
,, (American)	·99	10,600
Sycamore	·59	9,600
Teak (Indian)	·66 to ·88	15,500
Willow	·40	6,600

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

THE record of New South Wales as a Crown colony belongs more to history than to current statistics. It is therefore not proposed, in the following sketch, to deal with matters prior to the establishment of Responsible Government, though a brief narrative of the early history and settlement of the country will be found in the opening pages of this volume.

The present form of government was inaugurated forty-two years ago, the "Act to confer a Constitution on New South Wales, and to grant a Civil List to Her Majesty," having received the Royal assent on the 16th July, 1855. This important statute was proclaimed in Sydney on the 24th November of the same year, and at once came into operation, sweeping away entirely the former system, and constituting an elective representative Chamber, thus, by the granting of equal privi-ges, making the colonists of New South Wales the equals of their ountrymen in other parts of the Empire. The ties which bound the olony to the Empire were in no way loosened, for the Constitution Act imply conceded to the people of New South Wales the same rights hich prevailed in the United Kingdom, namely, of taxing themselves, nd of being governed by Ministers responsible to a Parliament elected y the people. The authority vested in the Sovereign remains the same before, though the mode of its exercise is widely different. The overeign, previous to Responsible Government, exercised, through the overnor, almost despotic power. This official in times past united in mself the executive and legislative functions, and personal liberty and dependence were to no small degree in his power. With the establish-ent of Responsible Government this state of things ceased, and the eatest measure of individual liberty is now found compatible with the ll protection of public rights. The readiness with which the people the colony adapted themselves to the forms and practice of their new vernment was not a little remarkable, and fully justified their assump-on of its privileges.

All laws are enacted in the name of the Queen, "by and with the dvice of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly," the overnor, as the Royal Deputy, giving the assent of the Sovereign mmediately to Acts of Parliament, or, if he should think fit, reserving em for the consideration of the Sovereign. In order that the Consti-tion may be clearly understood, it will be well to consider, under stinct heads, the several elements of which the Government and egislature consist.

THE GOVERNOR.

Previous to 1879 the Governor of the Colony was a
Letters Patent under the Great Seal; but in that year
was discontinued by the advice of Sir Alfred Stephen, give
tenure of office of Sir Hercules Robinson. The change was
out in the appointment of Sir Augustus Loftus. The office
is now constituted by permanent Letters Patent, and by
Commission, instead of as formerly by letters issued *pro h*
The Governor receives his appointment at present by Comm
the Royal sign manual and signet, which recites the Lette
the 29th April, 1879, as well as the instructions issued
manual and signet) in further declaration of the Queen's
pleasure." The original Letters Patent, thus recited and enfo
that the Governor is directed and empowered "to do and
things that belong to his office according to the tenor of
Patent, and of such Commission as may be issued to him un
manual and signet, and according to such instructions as
time to time be given to him under our sign manual and s
our order in our Privy Council, or by us through one of o
Secretaries of State, and to such laws as are now or shall
in force in the colony." By a custom which has now lon
no Governor retains his office longer than six years.
Governor die or become incapable during his tenure o
be removed before the arrival of his successor, or shou
occasion to leave the colony for any considerable period,
ment is to be administered (1) by the Lieutenant-Gover
there be no Lieutenant-Governor, (2) by an Administrat
pointed according to the provisions of the Letters Pate
structions. The present Lieutenant-Governor is Sir Frederi
Darley, K.C.M.G., C.J., who was appointed by a Commission
November, 1891.

The Lieutenant-Governor, or, in his absence, the Admi
empowered by his Commission to execute the office of Gove
any temporary absence of the Governor from the colony
Governor may not be absent, except in accordance with t
his instructions. Without the Queen's special leave h
leave the colony for a period exceeding one month at
exceeding in the aggregate one month for every year of
unless on a visit to the Governor of a neighbouring colo
the other hand, he may leave the colony for any period n
one month without its being reckoned as a departure, if h
previously informed the Executive Council in writing of
and appointed a deputy to act for him till his return. Thi
in the first instance, be the Lieutenant-Governor; but if, f
his services are not available, the Governor may appoint w
as his deputy.

The Governor's functions, according to the Letters Patent, Commission, and Instructions, may be recapitulated as follow :—

The Governor is the custodian of the Great Seal, under which all Crown grants, etc., must pass.

The Governor has the appointment of his own Council—the Executive. He is also to summon that Council, and is ordinarily its President; but in his absence some other member may be nominated to preside. It is usual, however, to appoint some member of the Ministry permanent Vice-President, who presides in the absence of the Governor.

The Governor is the fountain of honour within the colony, since to him belongs the power to appoint, in the Queen's name, all Judges, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners, and other "necessary officers and Ministers"; and, by virtue of his powers as Viceroy, he may remove from the exercise of his office any official so appointed.

The Governor is also the depositary of the prerogative of mercy within the colony, having it in his power to pardon, either absolutely or conditionally, any offender convicted in New South Wales. He can also remit fines, penalties, and forfeitures due to the Crown, but he cannot pardon or remit on the condition of the offender voluntarily leaving the colony, unless the offence has been a political one only. In all capital cases until recently the final responsibility of deciding whether or not the death penalty should be carried out rested solely with the Governor, but, by a new arrangement which has been agreed to by all the Australasian colonies, such final power is now exercised by the Governor "with the advice of the Executive Council." This places the procedure of these colonies, in regard to capital cases, on similar lines to the system that has for some time past been in force in Canada. Its adoption was suggested and strongly urged by Lord Onslow, the former Governor of New Zealand; and Lord Knutsford, the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the second Salisbury Administration, ascertained the views of the various Australasian colonies upon the subject. It being found that they all accepted the proposal as an improvement upon the practice then existing, a circular despatch was sent to each colony with instructions for its adoption. The new system was first used in New South Wales towards the end of October, 1892.

The Governor is also vested with the authority of the Crown, enabling him to nominate the members of the Upper House of the Legislature, and to summon, prorogue to a future day, or dissolve "any legislative body" existing in the colony. His instructions, however, provide that in the exercise of the above powers he is to act by the advice of the Executive Council in all cases except those whose nature is such that in his opinion the public service "would sustain material prejudice were he to follow such advice," or in matters too trivial to submit to the Council, or "too urgent to admit of their advice being given"; but in all such urgent cases he must communicate to the Council as soon as practicable the measures taken by him, and his reasons for acting. expressly provided, however, that the Governor may, if he thi disregard the advice of the Executive and act in direct opposi the declared will of his advisers, but in such cases he is requi make a full report of the whole circumstances for the informa the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Governor acts as Viceroy as regards giving the Royal as or vetoing Bills passed by the Legislature, or reserving them special consideration of the Sovereign. The instructions deal with this matter, but it is usual in practice to be guided to extent by the advice of the law officers of the Crown. There a different classes of Bills, however, to which the Governor is bo refuse the Royal assent. They are:—

(1.) Divorce Bills (that is, private bills divorcing pa persons).
(2.) Bills making any kind of grant, gratuity, or donation Governor.
(3.) Bills affecting the currency.
(4.) Bills imposing differential duties, which are not in acc with the Australian Colonies Duties Act, 1873.
(5.) Bills apparently contrary to Imperial treaty obligation
(6.) Bills interfering with the discipline or control of Her M land or sea forces employed in the colony.
(7.) Bills of great importance, or extraordinary in their whereby the Royal prerogative, or the rights and p of Her Majesty's subjects residing beyond the col the trade and shipping of the United Kingdom dependencies, may be prejudiced.
(8.) Bills containing provisions to which the Royal ass already been refused, or which have been once dis unless they contain a clause suspending their o until the Queen's pleasure has been signified, or un Governor is satisfied that there is urgent neces bringing any such Bill into immediate operation, i case he is empowered to assent to the Bill on b the Queen, if it is not repugnant to the law of E or inconsistent with Imperial treaty obligations; every such case he is required to transmit the Bill Majesty, together with his reasons for assenting to

The following Acts of Parliament regulate the action of the in assenting to Bills on behalf of the Queen, or reserving the consideration of the Sovereign:—5 and 6 Vic., cap. 76, secs. and 8 Vic., cap. 74, sec. 7; and 13 and 14 Vic., cap. 59, and 33. The effect of these enactments is to deprive any of all force and legality until the Queen's assent thereto has l communicated to the Governor; and power is given to He veto any Bill to which the Governor has assented on her years after the receipt of such Bill by the Secretary of State for the onies, in which case the Bill is to be declared null and void by ssage of the Governor, and proclamation. Reserved Bills are to be before Her Majesty in Council, and the Queen may allow them or within a period of two years from the day on which they were rved by the Governor. The Queen's assent to reserved Bills may be nsmitted by telegram.

By Act 7 Vic., No. 16, all Acts of Parliament which become law required to be registered by the Registrar-General within ten days heir so becoming law.

The above is a summary of the powers and duties of the Governor, as sed by his instructions and the Letters Patent, but additional duties e been imposed upon him by the Constitution and Electoral Acts. accordance with these enactments he must summon the Legislative sembly; appoint the President of the Legislative Council; prorogue dissolve Parliament; appoint his ministers *proprio motu*; also appoint, th the advice of the Executive, all public officers whose appointment not vested in heads of departments; issue all warrants for the yment of money; issue the writs for general elections, and, in the sence of the Speaker, issue writs to fill vacancies occurring in the sembly.

In summoning, proroguing, or dissolving Parliament, the Governor ually acts according to the advice tendered him by the Cabinet, but is in no way bound to do so, and, as a matter of fact, he has sometimes clined to be guided by his Ministers. This, however, has never ppened except in respect to granting a dissolution. As to summoning proroguing, a difference of opinion is hardly likely to arise. The lations established between the Ministry and the representatives of e people are in accordance with the time-honoured precedents prevailg in Great Britain, which may be thus defined. The Cabinet must be osen from—"(1) Members of the Legislature; (2) holding the same litical views, and chosen from the party possessing a majority in the ouse of Commons; (3) carrying out a concerted policy; (4) under a mmon responsibility, to be signified by a collective resignation in the ent of Parliamentary censure; and (5) acknowledging a common bordination to one Chief Minister."

The Imperial rule as to the circumstances under which a Government bound to resign is as follows:—Censure, involving loss of office, rests tirely with the Lower House, or popular branch of the Legislature; nce, directly a Ministry fails to command a majority of the House of mmons, it must give place to another. Want of confidence in a binet may be shown in three ways: first, by a direct vote of censure, a specific declaration of want of confidence; second, by a vote approving of some act of the Government; or, third, by the rejecn of some important measure introduced by the Ministry. In any these cases Ministers must either resign, or appeal to the country if y can get the Sovereign to sanction a new election.

These rules have been virtually adopted in New Sou
the undoubted right of the Governor, as the depositar
prerogative, to refuse to grant a dissolution, if he thin
more than once exercised. In March, 1877, Sir Herc
refused to grant a dissolution to Sir John Robertson, an
of the same year he also declined to enable Sir Henry I
the country. The reason alleged in each case was that
refused to make provision for the expenditure of the yea
be seen that a grave responsibility is thrown upon the G
exercise of the unquestioned right of granting or refusin
of Parliament, and in the cases mentioned it can hardly
Sir Hercules Robinson acted within his powers. The
conservator of the rights and interests of the whole po
must be evident that grave evils would ensue should a d
place before supplies had been granted.

The exercise of the prerogative of mercy is such
function of the Governor, and he is so liable on son
have strong pressure brought to bear upon him in conn
that it will be well to quote at length the instructions
years ago upon this point. The mode of procedure in c
already been referred to, and in other cases the Govern
not to pardon or reprieve any offender without receivin
one, at least, of his Ministers; and in any case in whic
or reprieve might directly affect the interests of the Em
country or place beyond the jurisdiction of the Gove
colony, the Governor shall, before deciding as to eit
reprieve, take those interests specially into his own pers
tion in conjunction with such advice as aforesaid. In
his instructions the Governor is permitted to act in op
advice of the Executive Council "if he see sufficient c
to report any such matter to the Sovereign without delay

One exception to the rule that every exercise by the G
Royal prerogative is subject, practically, to the control
ture, occurs in connection with the exercise of his office as
Chief of the land and sea forces. The Governor's powers
are defined and regulated by the Military and Naval For
Act of 1871, which, after providing for the raising an
of a standing force, goes on to vest the supreme co
"Governor," which title, in the interpretation clause,
mean "the Governor with the advice of the Executive C
the context shall otherwise indicate. Full powers with
Volunteer Force are also bestowed on the Governor by
Regulation Act of 1867, but in this, as in the former statu
only means "the Governor with the advice of the Exec
if this meaning is not inconsistent with the context or sub
will at once be seen that these are both important lin
certain imaginable contingencies the Governor is left f

responsibility. This places the Governor almost in the position of
ommander-in-Chief in England (when such an officer exists, which
y seldom, the control of the army usually being vested in Generals
anding-in-chief); that is, he has at times the absolute disposal of
med force of the colony. This power is peculiar to New South
, as in other British colonies the Governor possesses no more
over the military than he does over any civil department of the
. The position of the Governor as Captain-General does not, how-
ive him power to take the direct command of Imperial troops,
any such be stationed in the colony.

egards the far more important power of the Governor to proclaim
law, different opinions are held. But there is no doubt, as the
has not been conferred by any statute in force in the colony,
it exists, it must be a matter of prerogative. The necessity for
ning martial law has happily never occurred since the advent of
sible Government.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Executive Council is composed of the ten Ministers, namely:
ef Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney-General, the Sec-
or Lands, the Secretary for Public Works, the Minister of
the Minister of Public Instruction and of Labour, the Secretary
es and Agriculture, and the Postmaster-General, with sometimes
President of the Executive Council, who is without a portfolio.
rm the Cabinet, and, of course, are responsible to Parliament.
nistry, as the advisers of the Governor, must also retain his
ce; but, practically, this is seldom likely to be withdrawn, so
they command a working majority in the Assembly. The
r may dissolve Parliament although the Ministry have not
d a defeat, and in this case the continued existence of any
nent would depend directly on the vote of the constituencies,
a contingency can happen but seldom.

rare for more than one Minister to be selected from the Upper
although at the present time there are two, and it will thus be
t the principle of the responsibility of members of the Govern-
Parliament is fully carried out. For every act of the Governor
roy some Minister is responsible to Parliament; and even in
of Imperial interest, where the final onus rests upon the
or, he himself is responsible to the Imperial Government, whose
s are under the control of the House of Commons, so that no
is left for the exercise of any arbitrary act. The Crown, except
instances (appeals to the Privy Council, and the bestowal of
acts towards the Executive through its representative, the
or; and so long ago as the inception of Responsible Government,
rey declared, in an official despatch, that he should make "a
us use of the influence, rather than of the authority, of his office,"

which wise maxim has usually been followed. But in extren such as when his sanction is requested to any illegal proceed Governor is bound, without question, to keep the law, though thereby be brought into hostile relations with the Cabinet. Sir Hicks-Beach, in a communication to the Governor-General of Ca 1879, clearly laid down the doctrine that the Governor of any Colony "has an unquestionable constitutional right to disn Ministers, if from any cause he feels it incumbent on him to This does not militate against the doctrine of responsibility, fo Ministry appointed by the Governor do not possess the confic Parliament, they cannot hold office, and hence the Governor forced to give way, or else persevere till he can select a M whom the Assembly will accept. The final control will thus b every other case, with the representatives of the people. In of routine the Governor will necessarily act on the advice Ministers, and in most cases relating to the internal economy departments, he will even adopt the individual recommendation Ministers by whom they are severally controlled.

As regards matters of purely Imperial interest, the Gove responsible to the British authorities for their due conservatic in consequence of his action on any such matter, he is involv dispute with his Ministers, he is bound to refer them to the Sov should his action have been endorsed by the Colonial Office. conduct were not approved of in England he would most likely be re It follows from this, that in no case can the Governor be hel responsible directly to Parliament for his conduct. His Minist responsible, but personally he has only to render an account Crown itself—that is, to the Imperial Parliament.

The Executive Council cannot discharge any function unle summoned by the Governor, and at least two members, besi Governor or presiding member, are present to form a quorum. minutes are, of course, kept of all proceedings.

The Executive Council, as at present constituted, is as follow

Premier and Colonial Treasurer....	The Right Hon. George Houstoun R
Chief Secretary	The Hon. James Nixon Brunker
Attorney-General	The Hon. John Henry Want, Q.C
Secretary for Lands	The Hon. Joseph Hector Carrut
Secretary for Public Works.........	The Hon. James Henry Young
Minister of Public Instruction and of Labour.....	The Hon. Jacob Garrard
Minister of Justice.....................	The Hon. Albert John Gould
Postmaster-General	The Hon. Joseph Cook
Secretary for Mines and Agriculture	The Hon. Sydney Smith
Vice-President of the Executive Council and Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council (without portfolio)	The Hon. Andrew Garran,

Since the introduction of Responsible Government there have been twenty-eight Ministries, the average tenure of office, excluding the Ministry at present in power, being about one year and five months. Nine Governments have been displaced by votes of censure, expressed or implied; three have resigned through having been defeated on important measures of policy; while two have retired on being saved from defeat only by the Speaker's casting-vote, and three others through a motion for the adjournment of the House being carried against them. Three Ministries were merged into the succeeding ones; five resigned without a direct vote having been carried against them, but in consequence of not possessing a working majority; one Government fell to ieces through internal disagreements; and one resigned in consequence f the Governor declining to appoint to the Legislative Council a certain umber of its nominees.

THE PARLIAMENT.

It seems a singular omission in the Constitution Act that no definition given of the relative powers of the Legislative Council and Legislae Assembly. Such is the fact, but little inconvenience has arisen ereby, since by common consent it has been agreed that the precedents ulating the proceedings and relations, *inter se*, of the two Houses of Imperial Parliament shall be followed, as far as applicable, in New th Wales. The Constitution Act provides that all money Bills shall introduced in the Lower House only. The important rule of the use of Commons, affirmed two hundred years ago and constantly orced ever since, that "all aids and supplies, and aids to Her Majesty Parliament, are the sole gift of the Commons, and it is the undoubted ht of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such Bills the s, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications uch grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House Lords," is also held to be in force as regards the Parliament of this ony, and has generally been recognised and acted upon.

The two Houses, however, do not possess the most important of the ileges of the Imperial Parliament, namely, the right of punishing for tempt, although the Legislative Assembly has, on one occasion, ished one of its members, by expelling him for conduct, beyond its incts, assumed to be dishonourable. As regards disorderly conduct hin the walls of the Chamber, it has been held by the Supreme Court, affirmed by the Privy Council, that the Assembly only possesses the er of suspending a member for disorderly conduct for the period he sitting at which he displayed such conduct. A member may also emoved from the House by order of the Speaker if he persists in ruction or contemns the Standing Orders; but fortunately this se has seldom been rendered necessary.

itnesses may be summoned to give evidence before either House, or re committees of the Council or Assembly, the necessary powers for elling their attendance having been conferred by an Act passed in

1881. Any person disobeying a summons may be arrested warrant, and the maximum penalty for refusing to give imprisonment for one calendar month.

As regards the maximum number of members of th Council, no limit is assigned by the Constitution Act, minimum number is fixed at twenty-one. It will be seen t power to a Governor to quash any possible obstruction on the Council to the will of the Government and the Low "swamping" the Council. Such a proceeding, however, ca held to be allowable, except under extreme circumstances. of fact, an attempt to "swamp" the Council was made duri premierships of the late Sir Charles Cowper, but. public demned the course most strongly, although the somew circumstances of the case were thought at the time t Governor's action. The authorities in England severely Governor (Sir John Young) for the course he had taken, a "swamping" the Council has never been seriously entert there much chance that it will ever again be attempted. in fact has been affirmed, on the basis of an understanding between Sir John Young and the leading statesmen of the sides of the House), that the members of the Legislative C be limited to a convenient number, and that no nomination be made merely for the purpose of strengthening the happens to be in power. A deadlock between the two H vided against by the universal feeling that the Assembly r will of the people, and in such case the Council would cert give way to the deliberate will of the people's represen Council is intended as a check to hasty legislation; and acts as a useful "brake" to violent party feeling.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

As before stated, the members of the Upper House a by the Governor, the minimum number composing the fixed at twenty-one. No limit as to numbers is fixed by the Act, but in accordance with the arrangement already number is practically kept down by the exclusion of all pu appointments. As the number of members of the Asse creased to 125, the number of members composing the C vember, 1897, (64) will not be considered an unfair prop increase is in about the same ratio as that of the Assen member of the Council must be of full age, and either a or a duly naturalised subject. Four-fifths of the members sons not holding any paid office under the Crown, but thi to include officers "in Her Majesty's sea and land forc half pay, or retired officers on pensions." Though the is for life, a member may resign his seat, and he als by absence from two consecutive sessions without leave, turalised in a foreign State, by becoming bankrupt, by becoming a blic contractor or a defaulter, and by being attainted of treason being convicted of felony or any infamous crime. The Governor ppoints, and, if necessary, removes the President, who may speak debate, but can only give a casting-vote. An attendance of one-hird of the members on the roll was formerly necessary to constitute quorum, but an Act has been carried reducing the proportion to ne-fourth. The Council must hold a sitting at least once in every year, and no greater interval than twelve months must elapse between session and session. The proceedings are regulated by standing orders, which are, in the main, similar to those of the Assembly, the latter being framed on the model of the rules obtaining in the House of Commons. No member may sit or vote till he has taken the oath of allegiance, or the affirmation prescribed in lieu of that oath.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

In the Session of 1892–3, an Act was passed, entitled the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act of 1893, by which the course of procedure with regard to elections for the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales was almost entirely changed. The enactments under which such elections had been conducted up to that time—the Electoral Act of 1880, and the Wentworth Subdivision Act—were repealed upon the passing of the Act of 1893, with the exception of certain provisions which have since been abrogated by proclamation. During the year 1896 several important alterations were made in the 1893 Act in the direction of the extension of the franchise, and of the removal of restrictions placed upon electors changing their residence from one district to another.

The main principles of the new electoral system may be thus summarised:—The number of members of the Legislative Assembly, which had grown by virtue of the Expansion Clauses of the Act of 1880 from 108 to 147, was reduced to 125, and the number of electorates, now denominated Electoral Districts, was increased from 74 to 125. Under the new system, therefore, there are exactly as many members as electorates, or in other words, there are single electorates. This, of course, involved a complete re-distribution of the electorates, and special machinery had to be created in order that this might be done. In accordance with the Act three Commissioners were appointed, to whom was entrusted the duty of dividing the colony into 125 electorates, each containing as nearly as might be the same number of electors. In order to ascertain the quota of electors to be apportioned to each electorate, the number of resident electors on the roll for 1892–3, which happened to be 282,851, was divided by 125, and the quotient, 2,263, was fixed as the standard number of electors entitled to one representative. For subsequent distributions the number of electors on the roll at the time of such distributions will be divided by 125, in order to arrive at a new quota. Readjustments are to be made shortly after the taking of each Census,

and also, if necessary, four or five years after the taking of
In marking out the new Electoral Districts, the Commiss
required to form them so as to include the standard numbe
as nearly as possible; but at the same time, in order to
venient divisions, they were allowed a margin of 200 vote
while in exceptional cases, on the Commissioners furnishing
reasons, the margin might be as much as 600 either way.

The qualification for an elector is that he must be a
subject who has resided in New South Wales for a continuo
one year, or a naturalised subject who has resided in the
tinuously for one year after naturalisation. It was prov
principal Act that in either case he must have resided th
continuously in the electoral district for which he claim
but by the amending Act 60 Vic. No. 25 the period of r
reduced to one month in the case of a person already on th
who has but removed from one district to another. Every
being of the full age of 21 years, and not otherwise dis
entitled to have his name on the electoral roll, and to h
tor's right issued to him. The persons disqualified und
system were the same as those disqualified under the Ac
namely, persons in the Naval or Military Service on full
militia or volunteers); the Inspector-General or Superintende
or any person connected with the Police Force; and persons
mind, or in the receipt of public charity, or criminally con
the franchise was extended to the police force, including th
General and the Superintendents, in the course of the year
60 Vic. No. 24. The disqualifications mentioned in the Cons
remain unchanged.

Power was given to the Governor under the Act of 1893
each electoral district into divisions, and to appoint to each
Electoral Registrar, with Deputy Registrars for the several d
is one of the duties of these Registrars and Deputy Registr
certificates known as electors' rights to those entitled to t
several divisions. The electors' rights are printed in red ink
specially prepared to prevent fraudulent imitations, with
cheques, in accordance with a form as shown in Schedule A
They are bound in books, and numbered consecutively in b
Every person who has established his qualification to vot
has been placed on the electoral roll, is entitled to receive
right upon signing his name in a book kept for that purpos
on the butt and the face of the right itself. Under the prin
elector who removed from one district to another within t
of an election was practically disfranchised; but, as stated
period has now been reduced to one month, and until th
qualified to vote in the district to which he has removed
his right in his old district. Provision is also made in th
right being lost or defaced. Every elector's right remains i

ncelled. It is provided by the amending legislation of 1896 that an ctor who has changed his abode from one district to another may ain a right for his new district after he has resided one month erein, and may have his name inscribed on the Additional Roll. hen the Registrar of any district grants an application for an elector's ht other than in lieu of one held for another district, he inscribes name of the elector in a Provisional List, copies of which, during first week of each month, are exhibited at every post-office and ice office within the district, so that to any name objection may be en and heard at the Revision Court of the district, to be presided r by a Stipendiary or Police Magistrate. All names passed at the ision Court are then inscribed in the Additional Roll.

uring the first week in August of each year, the Registrar must e out a general list of all persons on the electoral roll for his district, ell as of those to whom electors' rights have been issued since the last was printed; and copies of all such lists are exhibited for public ection at every post-office in the electoral district. Any person ting to any name upon the list must give to the Registrar, in ing, his reasons for such objection, and the Registrar must notify same to the person objected to. Every Registrar is supplied terly, by the District Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, a list of all males above the age of 21 years whose deaths have registered within the quarter. The Comptroller-General of Prisons the Inspector-General of Police must forward quarterly to the ister charged with the administration of the Act a list of all s above the age of 20 years in any gaol, lock-up, or other place of ntion; and the Minister must send to the Registrar of each district particulars as may be necessary for the purification of the electoral or such district. The Registrar must then write on a copy of the electoral roll, against the name of every person on the lists supplied to him as e, the words "dead" or "in custody, disqualified," or simply "in dy" where the particulars supplied do not appear to be such as to alify the person. A Revision Court is held in October each year, hich objections may be heard, and claims for insertion on the lists lered; and from the lists, when duly corrected and certified to by agistrate presiding in the Court, the electoral roll is printed. In ear 1900 and every third year thereafter the General List is to de up from the butts of the electors' rights.

its for the election of members of the Assembly are issued by the nor. The writs for a General Election are required to be issued four days from the proclamation dissolving Parliament, and are eturnable not later than thirty-five days from the date of issue. nent must meet not later than seven days from the return of the The polling day for a General Election is fixed as the eighteenth m the issue of the writs.

erson, to be qualified as a candidate, must be the holder of an s right. Each candidate must be nominated by at least six

electors for the district. The nomination must be made in writi
signed by the nominators, and endorsed by the candidate, as consenti
to the nomination. No elector can have more than one vote in
colony, or, in other words, the "one man one vote" principle is
forced. No elector can nominate more than one candidate. No dep
from a candidate is required. Proper provision is made for the appoi
ment of Returning Officers, deputies, poll-clerks, and scrutineers,
as in the Act of 1880. The poll is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in
months from October to March inclusive, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p
from April to September inclusive. Every person claiming to vote
exhibit his elector's right, satisfy the Returning Officer that he is
person on the roll who should possess that right, and demand a ball
paper. He is then furnished with a ballot-paper, containing the nam
of the candidates, and his elector's right, as well as the butt, is stamped
denote that he has voted at that election. The elector has then to reti
to some unoccupied compartment of the polling-booth, there to strike
the names of all the candidates on the paper, except the one for whom
votes, and the ballot-paper, folded so that the names are not visible,
placed by him in the ballot-box. Provision is made whereby an elect
can record his vote if away from his own electorate. At the close of
poll the votes are counted, and the result declared, in the ordinary mann

Very stringent clauses against bribery, treating, or intimidation
included in the Act. It is even forbidden to make a wager on the result
an election under a penalty of from £5 to £50. There are also secti
providing for the appointment of a Committee of Elections and Qual
cations, with powers similar to those conferred by the Act of 1880.

The disqualifications for membership of the Legislative Assembly,
vided by the Constitution Act, still remain in force. They are as follow

1. He must not be a member of the Legislative Council.
2. He must not hold any office of profit under the Crown, eit
   for a term of years or during pleasure.
3. He must not be in any way interested in any contract for
   public service.

By the Constitution Act Amendment Act of 1884, the disq
fication of persons holding office of profit was declared not to appl
the Colonial Secretary or any other member of the Ministry. The
disqualification also does not apply to any contract made by a com
consisting of more than twenty persons. If any disqualified pe
be elected, the election is voided by the House, and should such pe
presume to sit or vote he is liable to a fine of £500.

By an Act assented to on the 21st September, 1889, members of
Assembly are allowed the sum of £300 per annum to reimburse
for expenses incurred in the discharge of their Parliamentary dutie

Before taking his seat each member must take the oath of allegi
in the prescribed form, or make an affirmation in lieu of it. A me
may resign his seat at any time, and he is held to have vacated it

e following conditions:—Absence during a whole session with-, naturalization in a foreign country, bankruptcy, being a or convicted of treason, felony, or any other infamous crime. t 37 Vic. No. 7 provides that no Assembly can prolong its beyond the term of three years. One session, at least, must very year, and twelve months must not elapse between any ons. On meeting after a general election, the first business t a Speaker, who has only a casting vote. Twenty of the (exclusive of the Speaker) constitute a quorum.

st Parliament elected under the Constitution Act met on the ay, 1856, just six months after the proclamation of the ion. The duration of Parliament, unless it should be previously d, was originally fixed at five years, but in 1874 an Act was tablishing triennial Parliaments, which has ever since remained ce the inauguration of Responsible Government there have been appeals to the people, so that it will be seen the duration of embly has not averaged even the shorter period of life to which nce is now limited. The subjoined table gives the duration Parliament elected under Constitutional Government:—

ent.	Opened.	Dissolved.	Duration.			No. of Sessions.
			Yr.	mth.	dy.	
....	22 May, 1856...	19 Dec., 1857...	1	6	27	2
....	23 March, 1858...	11 April, 1859...	1	0	19	2
....	30 Aug., 1859...	10 Nov., 1860...	1	2	11	2
....	10 Jan., 1861...	10 Nov., 1864...	3	10	0	5
....	24 Jan., 1865...	15 Nov., 1869...	4	9	22	6
....	27 Jan., 1870...	3 Feb., 1872...	2	0	7	3
....	30 April, 1872...	28 Nov., 1874...	2	6	29	4
....	27 Jan., 1875...	12 Oct., 1877...	2	8	15	3
....	27 Nov., 1877...	9 Nov., 1880...	2	11	13	3
....	15 Dec., 1880...	23 Nov., 1882...	1	11	8	3
....	3 Jan., 1883...	7 Oct., 1885...	2	9	4	6
....	17 Nov., 1885...	26 Jan., 1887...	1	2	9	2
....	8 March, 1887...	19 Jan., 1889...	1	10	11	3
....	27 Feb., 1889...	6 June, 1891...	2	3	10	4
....	14 July, 1891...	25 June, 1894...	2	11	12	4
....	7 Aug., 1894...	5 July, 1895...	0	10	29	1
h........	13 Aug., 1895...	....	....	....	....	...
	Average......	....	2	3	14	3 to 4

st general election under the new Act was held on the 17th 94. The number of electors on the roll was 298,817, but of ber only 255,802 had obtained their electoral rights, so that cent. were apparently disfranchised. The lists, however, were y the inclusion of deceased persons, and others who had left y, and probably the proportion of electors who had failed to eir rights was not more than 11·4 per cent. Excluding the ncy of Inverell, where there was no contest, the number of electors upon the roll in the 124 districts where the candidates wen the poll was 296,749, of which number 254,105, or 85·63 per cent., received their rights. The persons who recorded their votes numb 204,246, forming 68·82 per cent. of the electors upon the roll in contested constituencies, and 80·38 per cent. of those who were enti to exercise the franchise because they were the possessors of electo rights. At the preceding election only 64·39 per cent. of the votes the rolls in contested electorates were cast, so that, despite the ex trouble caused by the introduction of the new system, there was gratifying increase in the number of persons who exercised their rig to vote. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that the "one m one vote" system came into operation in 1894 for the first time.

The general election of 1895 was not so satisfactory as the precedi one. First of all, the number of electors upon the roll was only 267,4 as compared with 298,817 a year before. As already explained, t rolls in 1894 included the names of many deceased persons, and othe who had left the colony, but when full allowance is made on this sc it is still evident that the residential period of three months (n reduced to one month), and the absence of any provision by which elector who had removed from one district to another might use h right in his old electorate, were responsible for the disfranchisement voters on a somewhat large scale. Of the 267,458 electors upon t roll in 1895, 253,125, or 94·66 per cent., had obtained their rights, compared with 85·6 per cent. in 1894. For eight electorates, memb were returned unopposed. In the 117 contested districts the elect upon the roll numbered 252,267, of whom 238,233, or 94·44 per ce held electors' rights. The number of votes recorded was 153,0 forming 60·66 per cent. of the electors upon the roll, and 64·24 per ce of the electors who held their rights. These proportions are m lower than in 1894, when the corresponding figures were 68·82 cent. and 80·38 per cent. respectively.

Speaking generally, it may be said that the electors display a c siderable amount of interest in the public affairs of the colony, and percentage of votes cast is not far below that recorded in the Uni Kingdom, where momentous issues have been decided by a gen election. It is true that in the United Kingdom the system of pl voting is still in force, and the number of non-resident voters is v large; [illegible] the elections there extend over a fortnight, while in N South Wales they are all held on one day, and, furthermore, in t [illegible] some of the electoral districts are of vast extent, and m [illegible] can only record their votes at considerable inconvenience [illegible]

[illegible] number of males of full age compared with the total populat is very large, the proportion at the last Census being 29 per cent. [illegible] of persons actually enrolled at the general election in 1 amounted to 20·3 per cent., or over one-fifth of the total population. average number of electors on the roll per member was 2,139, and ated population to each member was 10,145. The subjoined table the result of all the general elections which have taken place under esentative Government :—

No. of rliament.	Voters on Roll.	No. of Electors to a Member.	Total Members returned.	Members unopposed.	Votes on Roll in contested Electorates.	Votes recorded.	Percentage of Votes recorded.	Informal Votes.	Percentage of Informal Votes.
....	44,526	825	54	*	*	*	*	*	*
nd	72,177	1,002	72	14	54,896	27,894	50·81	*	*
d	88,346	1,227	72	19	63,022	27,490	43·62	22	0·08
th	106,189	1,475	72	19	75,676	28,340	37·45	29	0·10
....	119,872	1,665	72	15	90,736	44,311	48·84	31	0·07
....	128,734	1,788	72	11	108,080	56,331	52·12	102	0·18
nth	151,798	2,108	72	8	125,488	60,004	47·82	80	0·13
th	160,843	2,234	72	10	104,575	57,651	55·13	334	0·58
h	160,945	2,205	73	16	120,698	62,172	51·51	*	*
h	188,500	1,745	108	14	140,848	90,657	64·36	1,785	1·97
nth	196,289	1,737	113	17	166,260	96,842	58·26	2,002	2·07
fth	232,190	1,900	122	8	203,669	124,378	61·07	2,564	2·06
eenth	256,406	2,068	124	17	226,228	131,062	57·93	2,275	1·73
teenth	280,160	2,045	137	13	257,763	154,924	60·10	2,641	1·70
enth	305,456	2,166	141	7	285,897	184,091	64·39	3,642	2·00
enth	298,817	2,296	125	1	296,749	204,246	68·82	3,310	1·62
teenth ..	267,458	2,139	125	8	252,267	153,034	60·66	1,354	0·88

* Unrecorded.

e cost of the general election of 1894 was £25,989, giving an average 208 for each of the 125 constituencies, or, excluding Inverell, where ntest took place, nearly £210. The sum of 1s. 9d. was expended ch of the 298,817 voters on the rolls, and 2s. 7d. on every person voted. In 1895 the general election cost £20,405—an average of £163 per electorate, and £174 for each of the 117 contested districts. cost per elector on the rolls was 1s. 6d., and the cost per person who 2s. 8d. In addition to the amount expended on the general elections, n of £22,547 was expended during 1894 in inaugurating the new ral system, as allowances to electoral registrars and deputies and e police, in printing, and in advertising ; while in 1895 the expenses e system amounted to £12,837. Since the passing of the Act lishing triennial Parliaments, the average duration of the life of ssembly has been under two years and three months. Taking the nditure for this period at the average yearly rate of 1894 and 1895 7,692 per annum—and adding the mean cost of the last two general ons, a total of £63,004 is obtained as the cost of electing a Parlia- of average duration under the present system. This gives an ge of £2,520 for each of the 125 electoral districts into which the y is divided, and, on the basis of the 1895 figures, 4s. 9d. for every enrolled, and 8s. 3d. for each vote cast.

FEDERATION.

At the present time a notice of the Constitution and Government the colony would be incomplete without some reference to the questi of Australian Federation, which is now more prominently before th public than it has been at any previous stage of Australian history. has already been shown in the initial chapter of this work that th question was not overlooked by the framers of the first free Australi Constitution, who proposed the establishment of a General Assemb "to make laws in relation to those intercolonial questions that ha arisen, or may hereafter arise," and who, in fact, sketched out a tolerabl comprehensive federation scheme. Unfortunately, however, that propo tion was included with another for the creation of hereditary nobilit and in the storm of opposition and ridicule with which the latter id was greeted, the former sank out of sight. From time to time sinc Responsible Government came into being the evil of want of uni among the Australian colonies has been forcibly apparent, and the id of federation has gradually become more and more popular among th people. Some years ago the movement took such shape that, as the resu of an intercolonial conference, the matter came before the Imperial Parli ment, and a measure was passed, permitting the formation of a Feder Council, to which any colony that felt inclined to join could send delegat The first meeting of the Federal Council was held at Hobart, in Januar 1886. The colonies represented were Victoria, Queensland, Tasmani Western Australia, and Fiji. New South Wales, South Australia, an New Zealand declined to join, but South Australia sent representativ to a subsequent meeting. The Council has held six meetings, at whi several matters of intercolonial interest were discussed: but being fro its very inherent constitution only a deliberative body, having no exec tive functions whatever, it possessed no control of funds or other mea to put its legislation into force. The advocates of Federation were the fore dissatisfied with the position the question was in, and agitation w instituted with a view of bringing about a more satisfactory state of thin

An important step towards the federation of the Australasian Coloni was taken in February, 1890, when a Conference, consisting of rep sentatives of each of the seven colonies of Australasia, was held in t Parliament House, Melbourne. The Conference met on February 6, a there were thirteen members present, being two representatives fr each of the colonies, except Western Australia, which sent only o Sir Henry Parkes, Premier and Colonial Secretary, and Mr. W. McMill Colonial Treasurer, represented New South Wales. Mr. Duncan Gilli Premier of Victoria, was elected President of the Conference. T members held seven meetings, and discussed the question before them considerable length. At the last meeting the Conference adopted address to the Queen, expressing their loyalty and attachment, a submitting, as the result of the Conference, certain resolutions whi affirmed the desirableness of an early union, under the Crown, of t Australian colonies, on principles just to the several colonies; that other Australasian colonies should be entitled to admission upon terms be afterwards agreed upon; and that steps should be taken for the ap- ointment of delegates to a National Australasian Convention, to con- der and report upon an adequate scheme for a Federal Constitution.

In accordance with the terms of that resolution, delegates were ap- inted by the different Australasian Parliaments, and on the 2nd March, 91, the National Australasian Convention commenced its sittings in Legislative Assembly Chambers, Macquarie-street, Sydney, having n convened at the instance of Mr. James Munro, the Premier of toria. There were forty-five Members of the Convention altogether, South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and tern Australia (which had only recently been placed in possession of privilege of Responsible Government) each sending seven delegates, New Zealand three. At the first meeting of the Convention the delegates from Western Australia were absent, as well as three delegates representing Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand ctively; but in the course of a few days the whole of the delegates ed, and the Convention was complete.

e first business transacted by the Convention was the unanimous on of Sir Henry Parkes as President. Mr. F. W. Webb, Clerk of egislative Assembly of New South Wales, was appointed Secretary Convention, and Sir Samuel Griffith was elected Vice-President. now Sir) J. P. Abbott, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative mbly, was subsequently elected Chairman of Committees. Rules ocedure, similar in the main to those under which the business of ment is conducted, were adopted, and arrangements were made for mission of the public to the debates, and for the publication of an record of the proceedings.

eries of resolutions was moved by Sir Henry Parkes, setting forth n principles necessary to establish and secure an enduring founda- or the structure of a Federal Government, and approving of the ng of a Federal Constitution. These resolutions were discussed by onvention during nine sittings, part of the time in Committee of hole, and after amendment were finally adopted. The resolutions d the following principles:—

. The powers and rights of existing colonies to remain intact, except as regards such powers as it may be necessary to hand over to the Federal Government.

. No alteration to be made in States without the consent of the Legislatures of such States, as well as of the Federal Parliament.

. Trade between the federated colonies to be absolutely free.

. Power to impose Customs and Excise Duties to be in the Federal Government and Parliament.

. Military and Naval Defence Forces to be under one command.

. The Federal Constitution to make provision to enable each State to make amendments in its Constitution if necessary for the purposes of Federation.

Further resolutions approved of the framing of a Federal Con which should establish a Senate and a House of Representati latter to possess the sole power of originating money Bills ; also a Supreme Court of Appeal ; and an Executive consisting of a G General, with such persons as may be appointed as his advisers.

Three Committees were then chosen among the delegates— consider matters relating to Finance, Taxation, and Trade Regu a second to deal with the establishment of a Federal Judiciary third to prepare and submit a Bill for the establishment of a Constitution. On Tuesday, March 31, Sir Samuel Griffith, as C of the Committee on Constitutional Machinery, brought up Constitution Bill, which was fully and carefully considered by t vention in Committee of the Whole, and was adopted on Tl April 9. On the same day the Convention was formally declar dissolved, and it was left to the colonies individually to adopt the scheme presented to them by the Convention.

In January and February, 1895, a Conference of Premiers, a all the colonies except New Zealand were represented, was Hobart, for the purpose of arranging a scheme of federation or which might secure a more speedy realisation of the hopes of tionists. It was decided to ask the Parliament of each colony Bill enabling the electors qualified to vote for members of the Lowe to choose ten persons to represent the colony on a Federal Con The work of the Convention, it was determined, should be the of a Federal Constitution, to be submitted to the electors of the for their approval by means of the referendum. During the ye Enabling Acts were passed by New South Wales, Victoria Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia : and were brou operation by proclamation on the 4th January, 1897. On Ann Day, the 26th January, the writs were issued in New South The election was held on the 4th March, the representatives el the people being :—Messrs. Edmund Barton, Q.C. : The Rig G. H. Reid, P.C., LL.D., M.P. (Premier and Colonial Treasurer Carruthers, M.P. (Minister for Lands) : W. McMillan, M.P. Lyne, M.P. : J. N. Brunker, M.P. (Chief Secretary) : R. E. O Q.C., M.L.C. ; Sir J. P. Abbott, M.P. (Speaker of the Le Assembly) : and Messrs. J. T. Walker and B. R. Wise. The Co met in Adelaide on the 22nd March, and after drafting a bill consideration of the various Parliaments, adjourned until September. On that date the delegates re-assembled in Syd debated the bill in light of the suggestions made by the Legisl the federating colonies. In the course of the proceedings it nounced that Queensland desired to come within the proposec and in view of this development, and in order to give further opp for the consideration of the bill, the Convention again adjourn bourne having been decided upon as the third place of meeting, 20th January, 1898, the date upon which the sittings should be

SHIPPING.

THE shipping returns of New South Wales are compiled from information taken from the ships' papers, and contain particulars relating to all vessels trading to places beyond the colony. The tonnage given is, in every case, the net registered tonnage according to British measurement. The arrival of a vessel must be notified to the Collector of Customs within twenty-four hours. If a vessel puts in at more than one port of the colony, she is returned as having entered the first port only; and if she has come from a country beyond Australasia by way of a port or ports in one or more of the other colonies, she is regarded as having arrived from the place whence she originally took her departure. When a vessel berths at a public or private sufferance wharf, a certain number of free lay days, regulated by the tonnage of the vessel and the amount of carrying capacity occupied by the cargo to be landed, are allowed in which to discharge, and after they have expired, tonnage dues are imposed, the rate being one farthing per registered ton per day if the vessel has been fully laden, and if she has been partly laden only, one halfpenny per ton per day for the first twenty-five days, and half that rate thereafter. If the vessel berths for the purpose of loading only, no free lay days, of course, are allowed, and on vessels of 240 tons or more the rate is one halfpenny per ton per day for the first twenty-five days, after which time one farthing per ton per day is imposed. On sailing ships the amount is calculated on the registered tonnage, while with steamers the gross tonnage is adopted. On smaller vessels and on lighters berthing solely for the purpose of loading, a wharfage rate of ten shillings for each day or part of a day is imposed. In cases where a Government wharf has been let to a private company, the rent of the wharf is accepted by the State in lieu of tonnage dues.

A wharfage rate, which varies in amount with the kind of merchandise landed, is levied on all goods discharged on the wharfs, unless they have come from one of the other Australasian colonies, or from the Pacific Islands, and are intended for transhipment, in which case they are exempt from wharfage; and on goods shipped the rate charged is half that levied on merchandise imported. No wharfage rates, however, are charged at the port of Newcastle, and the collection of these rates at Wollongong was discontinued in April, 1896. For every trading vessel, with the exception of a whaler or a ship which has put into port through stress of weather or for the purpose of effecting repairs, receiving orders, taking in provisions, obtaining bunker coal, or being in distress, a harbour and light rate of fourpence per ton is required to be paid. The payment of the charge at one port affords immunity to the vessel at all ports of the colony for a period of six months, but after the expiration of that time the ship is liable to a similar charge when she again comes to a

port in New South Wales. Unless the master should hold a ce
entitling him to pilot his ship into and out of port, pilotage is
for on arrival or departure at the rate of 2d. per ton, and 1d. pe
the ship be in ballast. The smallest sum payable is £2 10s. at Sy
Newcastle, and £1 5s. at any other place where there is a pilot es
ment; and £20 is the maximum sum payable. A whaler is not
to pilotage charges; 1d. per ton on arrival is charged for vessels e
a port for the purpose of refitting or docking, or in order to obta
for use on board, and 2d. per ton when she leaves; and vessels co
to enter port through stress of weather, or for the purpose of e
repairs, receiving orders, or taking in provisions, or because they
distress, are charged 1d. per ton on arrival, and the same rate on dep

When it is desired to remove a vessel from one part of the h
to another, permission to do so must be obtained from the H
Master, and if this officer should make the removal, a fee is ch
the amount payable being £1 if the vessel does not exceed 30
£2 10s. if she does not exceed 1,000 tons; an additional £1 for
500 tons or part thereof up to 1,500 tons; and a uniform rate of
for a tonnage exceeding 1,500. Before a vessel can sail, a certifi
clearance must be obtained from the Custom House. If the ship
into more than one port of the colony, she is returned as having
at the last port only; and if she is bound for more than one po
is returned as having left for the country in which her terminal po

THE MARINE BOARD.

The Marine Board of New South Wales is a body composed of
wardens, four of whom, including the President, are appointed
Government, and three, who must be registered owners of ship
not less than 250 tons, are elected triennially by owners of ship
100 tons and over. The Board supervises all matters relating to
navigation, and transactions in connection with the issue, susp
and cancellation of certificates of competency and service; the fr
of harbour regulations; the preservation of ports, harbours, river
the licensing, appointment, and removal of pilots; the regulat
lighthouses, lights, and rivermarks, moorings, licenses to li
watermen's boats, ferries, harbour and river steamers, etc. In sh
transactions of a general nature, it acts in conjunction with the
Board of Trade, and has jurisdiction over all British ships. It
inquiries into shipping casualties in all cases where a port in the
is the first entered after the occurrence, or the survivors have lan
New South Wales. The law provides for the establishment o
board under the superintendence of the Marine Board in Sydn
but only one that at Newcastle has been created.

Before certificates are issued by the Marine Board, certain con
have, of course, to be fulfilled. It is necessary for a candidat
master foreign-going certificate to be at least 21 years of age,
have served six years at sea, but for a master's certificate for the

trade the candidate may be one year younger, and have served two years less than in the other case. A first mate's foreign-going certificate is not issued to a person of less than 19 years of age, nor to one who has served for a smaller period than five years; while for a second mate's certificate the lowest age is 17 years, and the shortest period of service four years. For the coasting trade, the age of the person to whom a mate's certificate is issued must not be less than 19 years, but he is only required to have served three years at sea. A first-class engineer must be at least 22 years of age, and second and third-class engineers at least 21 years old. Marine surveyors' certificates are issued to persons who have passed the examinations necessary for the obtaining of an extra first-class engineer's certificate, to master mariners who have been in command for not less than five years, and to those who have an extra master's certificate. Pilotage certificates are granted to masters of British ships employed in the Australasian and South Sea Island trade on passing the necessary examination, but they must have entered and left the particular port for which the certificate is desired thrice with their vessels as masters or officers of the watch.

QUARANTINE.

The Board of Health has entire control of all matters relating to health, and may place in quarantine any vessel, if it deems it advisable to do so for the preservation of the public safety. There is only one quarantine station in the colony for persons. It is situated inside the north head of Port Jackson, and in equipment and suitability of position it is surpassed by few quarantine stations in the world. There are also two stations in Sydney Harbour—one at Bradley's Head and the other at Shark Island—and one at the port of Newcastle, where foreign live stock may be placed in quarantine; and at Randwick there is another station for the isolation of Australian stock. The regulations for the quarantining of animals are enforced by the Department of Mines and Agriculture.

INCREASE IN SHIPPING.

The records of the shipping trade of New South Wales, although carefully kept by the various Governors, are not available prior to the year 1822, the earlier registers relating to the colony's statistics having disappeared. There are in existence, however, numerous manuscript returns which record the shipping trade of the earlier years, and these will doubtless be published at some future date.

During the year 1822, the shipping amounted to 71 vessels entered, aggregating a tonnage of 22,924; and 60 vessels cleared, with a total tonnage of 20,793. Twenty-eight years afterwards, just before the separation of Port Phillip, the figures stood thus: 976 vessels entered, with a tonnage of 234,215, and 1,014 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 263,849. In 1851, the year of the separation of Victoria from the parent colony, the trade fell to 553 vessels entered, measuring 153,002 tons, and 503 vessels cleared, of 139,020 tons; but in 1860, the year following the separation of Queensland, the shipping amounted to vessels entered, with a tonnage of 427,835, and 1,438 vessels cl of 431,484 tons—a considerable advance on the figures of the pre year. From 1860 to the present time trade has rapidly increased at a greater rate than the population. In 1891, the shipping en amounted to 2,821,898 tons; but this quantity fell to 2,804,549 to 1892, and to 2,590,371 tons in 1893. In 1894, however, the shi entered rose to 2,859,968 tons, but the increase of 269,597 to the measurement of the vessels which entered the ports durin previous year did not represent a corresponding enlargement o import trade, as there was a large accession to the tonnage comi the colony in ballast—the bulk direct to Newcastle to load coal—pro in consequence of the scarcity of freights elsewhere in Australasia. increase was maintained in 1895, when the tonnage entered 2,929,758; but the year 1896 saw the largest amount of shipping i history of the colony, namely, 3,080,751 tons entered—an increa the 1895 figures of 150,993 tons, all but 49,293 tons of which represented by vessels bringing cargo.

The rate of increase has been fairly constant, though checked sionally by the occurrence of bad seasons here, or the failure of p in the European markets. The following table shows the quantity tonnage of shipping arriving in and departing from New South W at intervals of five years, from the date of the earliest records to year 1890, and for each of the six succeeding years :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1822	71	22,924	60	20,793
1825	85	24,559	75	22,688
1830	157	31,225	147	28,822
1835	260	63,019	269	66,964
1840	709	178,958	665	163,704
1845	597	105,352	614	103,961
1850	976	234,215	1,014	263,849
1855	1,152	353,323	1,185	362,482
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484
1865	1,912	655,888	2,120	690,294
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942
1875	2,376	1,109,086	2,294	1,059,101
1880	2,108	1,242,458	2,043	1,190,321
1885	2,601	2,088,307	2,583	2,044,770
1890	2,889	2,413,247	2,777	2,348,625
1891	3,021	2,821,898	3,100	2,872,338
1892	2,930	2,804,549	3,067	2,842,635
1893	2,914	2,590,371	2,918	2,602,957
1894	3,272	2,859,968	3,291	2,878,586
1895	3,121	2,929,758	3,080	2,930,290
1896	3,224	3,080,751	3,248	3,109,009

ping tonnage of New South Wales greatly exceeds that of any y of the Australian group. Victoria stands next, after which th Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, Queensland, nia. Of the total shipping of Australasia in 1896, nearly one-red and cleared in New South Wales ports.

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

le of the colony is, to a very large extent, carried on under h flag, the deep-sea trade being in the hands of shipowners of l Kingdom, and the coastal trade in local hands. There has, een a notable increase in foreign shipping since 1881. In British shipping entered and cleared amounted to 1,333,410 le in 1896 it was 5,432,892 tons, showing an increase of tons. The foreign shipping amounted to 128,352 tons in 756,868 tons in 1896, being an increase of 628,516 tons. ent of the French line of Messageries Maritimes, in 1883, and s of German steamships some four years later, has tended to e amount of the foreign trade of the colony; but nevertheless e under the British flag in 1896 was 87·8 per cent. of the he annexed table shows the respective amounts of British and nnage for the years mentioned:—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
1870	1,333,410	128,352	1,461,762
1875	2,001,641	166,546	2,168,187
1880	2,259,924	172,855	2,432,779
1885	3,615,582	517,495	4,133,077
1890	4,156,963	604,909	4,761,872
1891	4,902,607	791,629	5,694,236
1892	4,977,850	669,334	5,647,184
1893	4,704,300	489,028	5,193,328
1894	5,191,971	546,583	5,738,554
1895	5,215,174	644,864	5,860,038
1896	5,432,892	756,868	6,189,760

onnage set down as British, the larger portion is owned or in Australasia. Prior to 1891, the returns do not allow of l shipping being divided between that belonging to Australasia longing to other British colonies; but in 1870, out of 1,333,410 ipping entered and cleared under the British flag, 964,718 2·3 per cent., belonged to British possessions, the great bulk being Australasian; in 1880, out of 2,259,924 tons entered cleared, 1,499,236 tons, or 66·3 per cent., represented colonial shipp while in 1896 the colonial shipping amounted to 3,078,312 tons which 3,000,357 tons were Australasian) out of a total of 5,43 tons, or 56·7 per cent. The amount of British, Australasian, other colonial shipping entered into and cleared from New South W ports for the years shown was as follows:—

Year.	Shipping belonging— To United Kingdom.	To Australasia.	To British Possessions other than Australasia.	Total, entered and cleared.
	tons.	tons.		tons.
1870	368,692	964,718		1,333,410
1875	740,683	1,260,958		2,001,641
1880	760,688	1,499,236		2,259,924
1885	1,520,091	2,095,491		3,615,582
1890	1,577,172	2,579,791		4,156,963
1891	1,813,716	3,029,067	59,824	4,902,607
1892	2,058,982	2,859,277	59,591	4,977,850
1893	1,808,340	2,866,967	28,993	4,704,300
1894	2,135,711	3,016,817	39,443	5,191,971
1895	2,244,650	2,882,579	87,945	5,215,174
1896	2,354,580	3,000,357	77,955	5,432,892

Compared with the figures just given, the tonnage of the fo vessels trading with New South Wales will appear small. Takin year 1896, for which the total tonnage of the principal nationalit given below, Germany stands first, then France, then the United S Norway is the only other nation whose carrying trade with the c is important.

	Tonnage.
Germany	238,726
France	215,575
United States	114,579
Norway	107,298
Other nations	80,690
Total	756,868

STEAM AND SAILING VESSELS.

The records prior to the year 1876 do not distinguish the ste from the sailing vessels, but the modern tendency to supersede s vessels by steam has been abundantly apparent in the twenty which have since elapsed. In 1876 the steam tonnage was 912, compared with 1,215,171 tons of sailing vessels, being 42·9 per cen r cent. respectively. In 1896 the relative positions were trans- or the tonnage of sailing ships had increased but slightly over the of 1876, being only 1,420,010 tons, or 22·9 per cent., as against 0 tons of steam, or 77·1 per cent. of the whole shipping. The of steam tonnage for the twenty years has, therefore, been over cent. The progress of the tonnage of each class will be seen e following figures :—

	Steam.	Sailing.	Year.	Steam.	Sailing.
	tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
	912,554	1,215,171	1892	4,329,634	1,317,550
	1,550,372	882,407	1893	4,227,186	966,142
	2,791,843	1,341,234	1894	4,407,522	1,331,032
	3,654,814	1,107,058	1895	4,447,716	1,412,322
	4,299,791	1,394,445	1896	4,769,750	1,420,010

dvantage offered by the New South Wales trade to shipowners rated by the large amount of tonnage coming to the colony in and the small amount leaving without cargo. A large proportion essels arriving in ballast come from the ports of the neighbour- nies, where they have delivered a general cargo, and, having able to obtain return freight, have cleared for Newcastle to load al. The largest amount of tonnage entered in ballast in any one ice 1870 was in 1896, when it reached 902,106 tons, and the amount cleared was 82,956 tons in 1891. The tonnage entered ared in ballast for the years shown was :—

	Entered.	Cleared.	Year.	Entered.	Cleared.
	tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
	237,246	21,004	1892	724,265	65,522
	320,921	12,830	1893	621,189	58,463
	217,763	16,219	1894	852,205	76,799
	345,366	53,381	1895	852,813	58,152
	544,264	66,846	1896	902,106	80,377
	632,617	82,956			

VALUE OF CARGOES.

ight be expected from the fact that over 29 per cent. of the tonnage arrived in the colony in 1896 was in ballast, as against rather an 2 per cent. of the clearances, the average value of freights l was higher than of those inward. Thus the average value of ls imported by sea was £5 13s 2d. per ton, while that of the goods d was £5 17s. 4d., or 3·7 per cent. higher. If, however, allow- made for shipping in ballast, the mean value of the exports was 5d., or 24·8 per cent. lower than the imports, which averaged

£8 0s. 1d. per ton. New South Wales exports have, generally speal a high value per ton, and the fact that, when vessels entering leaving in ballast are excluded, they have a lower average value t the imports, is due to the large amount of coal exported, the qua for 1896 having been 2,474,907 tons weight—equivalent to 1,680,000 tons measurement, out of a total of 3,109,009 tons.

It will be seen from the following table that in the case of the g majority of the countries with which the colony has commercial tions, the exports from New South Wales have a higher average than the goods imported. The figures for Queensland are exceptio as a large quantity of gold is imported from that colony :—

Country.	Value of Imports per ton.			Value of Exports per ton.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	16	19	6	19	12	11
Victoria	2	13	1	4	9	0
Queensland	14	11	0	4	5	9
South Australia	4	16	8	14	4	7
Western Australia	0	4	5	6	18	10
Tasmania	4	7	11	1	7	7
New Zealand	3	15	3	1	18	11
Other British possessions	1	18	8	2	11	8
Belgium, France, and Germany	6	15	3	20	16	3
United States	14	19	6	9	7	11
Other foreign countries	2	5	6	1	3	3
Average	6	13	6	7	8	0

The trade with Belgium, France, and Germany has been grou together in the table, as it is impossible to find the true average v of the trade of each of those countries, on account of the great bul the Belgian trade being carried in French and German bottoms. greater part of the trade classed under "Other foreign countries" transacted with various groups of islands in the South Seas and South American countries. During 1896 the proportion of ton entering in ballast from Victoria was 42 per cent, from South Aust 36 per cent., and from Western Australia 85 per cent., of the arri and this circumstance partly explains the low rate per ton of the imp from those colonies. As for the outward trade, the large quantit coal shipped to the southern colonies lowers the general average v of the whole exports.

MOVEMENTS OF SHIPPING.

The following table shows the yearly movements of ton exclusive of the coasting trade, of some of the principal nations of

, and also of New South Wales, with the rate of tonnage per f the population, the returns being made up to the latest date ble :—

untry.	Tonnage.	Per Head of Population.	Country.	Tonnage.	Per Head of Population.
Kingdom ..	85,462,422	2·2	Italy	16,829,468	0·5
....	27,909,379	0·7	Spain	25,922,486	1·4
y	23,953,464	0·5	United States.....	35,271,758	0·5
....	5,339,150	2·7	Arg'ntineRepublic	13,261,453	3·4
....	12,383,747	2·6	Canada	10,976,829	2·2
nds..........	13,531,345	2·8	New South Wales.	6,189,760	4·8

he tonnage engaged in the outward trade of the colony, 13·7 t. went to the United Kingdom, though in value the exports were r cent. of the total. The tonnage of vessels to Victoria and the ustralasian colonies amounted to 52·6 per cent. of the whole, while the exports reached only 19·8 per cent. As regards the other possessions, the tonnage of vessels carrying goods from New South o their ports amounted to 6·5 per cent. of the whole, but the nly reached 2·9 per cent. In the case of foreign countries, the in 1896 amounted to 27·2 per cent. and the value to 31·4 per The following table shows the tonnage entered from and cleared United Kingdom and the British colonies, and some of the prin-reign countries, as well as the value of the cargoes; but it must e in mind that the tonnage figures represent the nominal tonnage essels carrying the goods, and not the actual weight of the goods ves, which latter information it is impossible to obtain :—

untry.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Tonnage.		Value.		Tonnage.		Value.	
	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.
	tons.		£		tons.		£	
ngdom	423,535	13·7	7,190,115	41·2	426,342	13·7	8,375,883	45·9
....	796,548	25·9	1,010,286	5·8	740,341	23·8	1,106,066	6·1
d	321,611	10·4	3,658,626	21·0	286,200	9·2	1,010,793	5·5
tralia	297,346	9·7	437,521	2·5	191,193	6·1	357,982	2·0
ustralia	113,746	3·7	25,351	0·2	76,800	2·5	533,265	2·9
....	135,925	4·4	597,706	3·4	121,153	3·9	167,399	0·9
nd...........	187,359	6·1	704,699	4·0	220,809	7·1	429,583	2·4
tish Posses-	323,528	10·5	625,164	3·6	201,372	6·5	520,328	2·9
France and y	139,162	4·5	941,108	5·4	150,011	4·8	3,122,178	17·1
tes	115,497	3·7	1,729,871	9·9	219,798	7·1	2,064,964	11·3
reign Coun-	226,494	7·4	515,392	3·0	474,990	15·3	552,170	3·0
....	3,080,751	100·0	17,435,839	100·0	3,109,009	100·0	18,240,611	100·0

TONNAGE AND CREWS.

The average tonnage of vessels trading with the colony has g ally increased since 1845; previous to that year transports form large a portion of the total tonnage as to swell the average co ably. The average tonnage per ship at each decennial period since was as follows:—

Year.	Average tonnage of vessels.	Year.	Avera of ve
1825	295	1875	
1835	246	1885	
1845	173	1895	
1855	306	1896	
1865	329		

Since 1870 the average tonnage of British and British-colonial v trading to New South Wales has increased by 158 per cent. in th case and 117 per cent. in the other, while foreign vessels have inc in average tonnage by 220 per cent. during the same period. advance in shipping during the last decade has been very marked, following figures, which show the average tonnage of vessels in from 1870, attest:—

Year.	British.		Foreign.	Year.	British.		F
	United Kingdom.	Colonial.			United Kingdom.	Colonial.	
1870	706	306	449	1892	1,696	684	
1875	742	379	557	1893	1,766	647	
1880	1,031	476	732	1894	1,769	615	
1885	1,312	602	997	1895	1,784	648	
1890	1,624	600	1,330	1896	1,821	683	
1891	1,680	709	1,263				

The natural corollary to the increase in the size of ships and t provements to the rigging and fittings is the decrease in the nu hands required per ton, though the actual number of hands emplo vessel has increased. Intercolonial vessels in 1896 carried an of 22 men to every vessel, or 1 man to every 29·2 tons. Other vessels carried in 1896 an average complement of 48 men, or 1 every 37·3 tons; while foreign ships carried an average crew of or 1 man to every 30·3 tons. In 1870 British ships carried 1 every 26 tons, intercolonial vessels 1 man to every 29 tons, and vessels 1 man to 35 tons, the decrease in the tonnage per in foreign vessels being due to the finer class of ships that b trade here in 1896; these are fitted in the most modern fashi ccordingly. The following figures show the average crews of olonial, and foreign vessels for the periods mentioned :—

British.	Colonial.	Foreign.	Year.	British.	Colonial.	Foreign.
27	15	13	1892	50	25	54
27	17	14	1893	54	23	61
44	21	25	1894	50	22	52
44	24	36	1895	48	23	52
52	22	49	1896	48	22	47
51	25	41				

PRINCIPAL PORTS.

lative importance of the various ports of Australasia may be ed by an inspection of the following table, which shows the and trade of the principal Australasian ports for the year 1896. ese figures the rank of Sydney becomes evident. Melbourne first place as regards tonnage; but the figures for purposes of on should be reduced by a large amount—from 350,000 to tons entered and a like quantity cleared, or altogether about tons—to allow for the circumstance that the great ocean whose terminal port is Sydney are counted in the homeward ward voyages as twice entering and twice clearing at Port and with this allowance the shipping of Melbourne is exceeded of Sydney, as the Victorian port is also surpassed in the value de. Newcastle occupies third place, for in the figures given Adelaide the mail steamers are reckoned twice over, as at Mel- It should be noted in respect to Queensland ports that the of vessels is recorded at every port of call, and on this account s north of Brisbane also appear more important than they e.

Port.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Shipping.	Trade.	Shipping.	Trade.
	tons.	£	tons.	£
lney	2,104,613	16,821,742	1,806,438	16,638,847
wcastle	783,669	611,880	1,084,220	1,496,687
lbourne	2,195,878	11,872,280	2,161,522	13,195,911
sbane	653,803	3,134,694	642,961	2,086,232
wnsville	466,360	720,999	477,494	1,903,961
t Adelaide	1,462,286	4,313,397	1,412,360	4,847,035
t Pirie	122,433	250,290	154,315	1,197,731
any and Esperance Bay	830,761	581,624	748,206	166,397
mantle	232,299	4,734,379	177,074	820,012
bart	302,245	483,511	300,952	581,623
nceston	101,770	534,747	96,794	663,629
llington	187,668	1,589,359	160,321	1,489,753
ckland	241,426	1,960,570	190,859	1,276,035

89555

The progress of the shipping trade of Sydney has been very uni the increase from the year 1860 being at an average rate of about 5 cent. per annum. The vessels registered as entering the port of Sy considerably exceed in tonnage those clearing. To account for difference it is only necessary to state that vessels leaving Sydney Newcastle for the purpose of shipping coal are reckoned as depar from Newcastle, and not from Sydney. For this reason the clear of Newcastle uniformly exceed the arrivals, as will be noticed in subsequent table. The practice of clearing vessels at both ports at time obtained, but has been abandoned for many years, and vessel now cleared at the port which they last leave. The following state shows the shipping entered and cleared at both Sydney and Newc for quinquennial periods from 1870 to 1890, and for consecutive since the latter date. It will be seen that the tonnage of Sy doubled itself from 1870 to 1880, and from 1880 to 1890, but d the last six years the total increase has only been 30 per cent. :—

Year.	Sydney.		Newcastle.	
	Entered.	Cleared.	Entered.	Cleared.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1870	385,616	364,758	283,091	383,242
1875	590,700	468,423	510,902	573,626
1880	827,738	641,996	400,598	516,480
1885	1,608,169	1,283,888	452,946	722,865
1890	1,644,589	1,356,632	625,398	842,180
1891	1,934,556	1,535,306	704,306	1,140,536
1892	1,896,677	1,594,108	729,167	1,024,318
1893	1,902,265	1,585,857	524,844	842,363
1894	1,959,435	1,612,179	721,931	1,035,930
1895	2,027,951	1,669,654	727,834	1,048,400
1896	2,104,613	1,806,438	783,669	1,084,220

The comparative importance of the trade of Sydney may be reali viewing it in connection with the trade of the chief ports of the U Kingdom. It will be observed that in absolute tonnage Sydney passed by only five English ports—London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Hu Newcastle; though in point of value the trade of Sydney exceed of any port in Great Britain—London, Liverpool, and Hull exc Twenty of the most important ports of the United Kingdom are in the following table, and in all cases the tonnage and trade coastwise are omitted. In every case the figures refer to the year 1896 :—

Port.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Shipping.	Trade.	Shipping.	Trade.
	tons.	£	tons.	£
England—				
London	8,993,285	146,852,558	6,588,910	83,227,874
Liverpool	5,643,514	103,512,255	5,239,510	93,298,954
Cardiff	3,957,920	3,006,507	6,947,224	6,171,821
Newcastle	1,722,789	6,963,442	2,881,315	3,466,963
Hull	2,262,929	26,686,090	1,748,980	20,218,000
Southampton	1,563,391	11,469,194	1,434,863	11,445,299
Bristol	733,595	9,613,989	375,187	1,284,128
Dover	809,851	8,738,692	800,322	2,638,036
Grimsby	795,648	6,952,637	761,097	10,685,899
Harwich	714,133	18,104,132	665,861	5,087,523
Newport	924,593	721,784	1,461,082	1,629,701
Sunderland	746,824	669,504	1,054,366	766,962
North Shields	1,134,193	456,530	1,587,553	1,329,058
Newhaven	366,037	8,795,552	355,958	2,902,040
Scotland—				
Glasgow	1,289,377	11,441,856	1,902,330	14,361,246
Leith	962,843	11,002,849	829,839	3,754,352
Kirkcaldy	484,320	268,295	818,404	563,163
Grangemouth	626,464	2,402,630	768,883	1,744,143
Ireland—				
Belfast	349,470	4,023,245	176,577	191,047
Dublin	225,563	2,292,043	126,604	75,745
New South Wales—				
Sydney	2,104,613	16,821,742	1,806,438	16,638,847
Newcastle	783,669	611,880	1,084,220	1,496,687

No other seaport of the colony can be compared with either Sydney or Newcastle, though for some time Wollongong has maintained a trade of some consequence, especially in coal; and of late years the importance of Eden, Twofold Bay, has increased. In 1896 the vessels which entered Wollongong direct from places outside the colony were, with one exception, all in ballast, and totalled 87,225 tons; while at Eden the sh entered amounted to 26,105 tons, and landed goods to the va £1,271. The shipping cleared at Wollongong had an aggregate t of 120,063, and at Eden 20,019, the value of the export trade a two ports being respectively £94,925 and £1,269.

The average tonnage of sea-going vessels lying in the port of S is about 80,000 per diem. The daily average at the port of Ne is about 35,000 tons. On the day on which the greatest num ships are in port, in the wool season, the tonnage at Sydney is e about 125,000, and that at Newcastle to 84,000. The value shipping ordinarily moored or anchored in the port of Sydney may down at £2,000,000, and of that in the port of Newcastle at £50 The greatest value of shipping afloat in the two ports on any o was about £4,500,000.

RIVER SHIPPING.

The trade borne by the rivers Murray and Darling varies greatl year to year, according as they are favourable or otherwise for navi The Murray River is navigable during the greater part of each ye the same cannot be said of the Darling, which as a rule can only by shipping during the period from March to September, when its is augmented by the flood-waters from the interior of Queensland the period over which the records extend both rivers have been nav and the tonnage at Wentworth on the Darling, at its confluence w Murray, and at Moama and other Murray River ports, is given following table :—

Year.	Tonnage entered at—	
	Wentworth.	Moama and other Murray Ports.
1887	35,392	30,470
1888	22,427	28,339
1889	38,335	29,279
1890	42,637	30,140
1891	37,988	31,753
1892	31,071	28,781
1893	39,888	33,359
1894	47,224	41,403
1895	37,489	40,723
1896	38,623	36,800

SHIPPING REGISTERED.

During the year 1896, 863 steamers and sailing vessels, repre 103,612 tons net, stood registered in the books of the Custom H belonging to the port of Sydney. Of these, 439 were steamers, coll d 58,511 tons net and 19,245 nominal horse-power. There were 48 ailing vessels on the register at Newcastle, their net tonnage being 6,392; nd 54 steamers of 1,869 nominal horse-power, and 2,664 net tons. The total tonnage registered in the colony was 112,668, of which 61,175 was steam tonnage, with 21,114 nominal horse-power. These gures are exclusive of lighters, of which there were 50, of a total tonnage of 3,066, registered at Sydney; and 45, with an aggregate onnage of 4,870, at Newcastle. A fee of £1 is charged for a ghter's license, which permits the boat to be employed for an indefinite eriod.

The total tonnage registered in New South Wales for the years shown as :—

Year.	Sailing vessels.			Steamers.			Total.		
	No.	Tons.	Crew.	No.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
1870	50	8,349	380	14	1,494	89	64	9,843	469
1875	93	12,197	556	37	3,903	286	130	16,100	842
1880	54	7,003	325	20	2,159	168	74	9,162	493
1885	49	4,876	280	50	6,387	394	99	11,263	674
1890	28	6,234	191	21	4,027	278	49	10,261	469
1891	53	9,492	280	40	5,239	351	93	14,731	631
1892	60	3,282	262	46	5,848	458	106	9,130	720
1893	32	5,972	231	33	4,200	288	65	10,172	519
1894	29	4,897	153	19	3,067	140	48	7,964	293
1895	13	1,363	85	13	5,172	186	26	6,535	271
1896	24	2,661	80	26	5,541	208	50	8,202	288

During the year 1896 four vessels, aggregating 577 tons, were sold to eigners, and in consequence were removed from the registers of this ony. Sales were also made to British subjects of 123 vessels, with a al tonnage of 11,247, which remained on the registers at Sydney and wcastle.

VESSELS BUILT.

The years 1883 and 1884 were marked by great activity in the conuction both of sailing and steam vessels, 50 sailing and 52 steam sels having been built in 1883, whilst 39 sailing vessels and 64 amers were built in the subsequent year. Trade then became less active, and the industry showed a tendency to die out. In 18 had fallen lower than in any of the preceding years, and there has little improvement since, the tonnage of sailing vessels built during being only 369, and of steamers 598, in all 967. The number of v built in each of the years shown was :—

Year.	Sailing vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1880	29	1,938	12	861	41	2,799
1883	50	1,885	52	5,368	102	7,253
1884	39	2,518	64	5,145	103	7,663
1885	29	800	36	2,992	65	3,792
1886	27	1,339	40	2,637	67	3,976
1887	14	636	16	778	30	1,414
1888	9	304	11	394	20	698
1889	9	204	14	663	23	867
1890	9	394	6	697	15	1,091
1891	27	573	13	767	40	1,340
1892	27	782	10	317	37	1,099
1893	11	563	7	236	18	799
1894	6	466	8	463	14	929
1895	5	481	4	259	9	740
1896	7	369	8	598	15	967

The building of steam vessels during the last ten years was of importance than that of sailing ships, the tonnage constructed d the period being 5,172 of steam and 4,772 of sailing; but 1892 to 1895 the tonnage of the sailing vessels turned out o yards of New South Wales exceeded that of the steamers. Scho and ketches are the principal classes of sailing vessels built i colony, the general tonnage of each class averaging conside under 100 tons burden. The growing tendency to supplant s vessels by steamers, and the substitution of iron for wood for the fi and hulls of vessels, have given a check to the wooden ship-bui industry, which at one time promised to grow to important dimen Every kind of timber suitable for the construction of ships is four the rivers of the coast districts of New South Wales, but as the de for this description of vessel has not increased, little advantage c taken of the resources of the colony in this respect.

No reliable data have so far been procurable as to the numbe tonnage of vessels built abroad for the New South Wales local t but the number must be considerable, and such vessels form an i of large value altogether lost sight of in the Customs returns. idea, however, of the large number imported may be gathered fro registration of the tonnage of other than New South Wales built ve which for the past ten years has averaged 4,441 tons sailing and tons steam per annum.

Docks and Wharfs.

mmodation provided both by the Government and by private for the fitting and repairing of ships is equal to the requirehe trade of the colony. At Sydney there are three graving floating docks, and three patent slips. At Newcastle there tent slips; besides which there are other docking and building ifferent parts of the colony for the convenience of coasters craft. The principal docks and slips in Sydney, as well as ng dimensions and the size of vessel they will carry, are he following table :—

of Dock.	Where situated.	Length.	Breadth	Draught of vessel that may be taken.	Lifting power of patent slip or dock.
ks—		ft.	ft.	ft. in.	tons.
(Government)..	Cockatoo Island ...	450	59	21 6	...
and ,, ...	,, ,, ...	600	84	32 0	...
....	Balmain	640	66 at top, 54 bot'm.	19 0	...
ks—					
re's	Waterview Bay ...	160	42	12 0	474
....	Woolwich............	250	40	14 0	1,200
(Mort's)	Johnston's Bay ...	317	55	15 0	1,500
n's Bay (Mort's)	,, ...	90	28	7 3	120
....	White Bay	150	60	7 6	300
—					
No. 1	Balmain	270	30	11 ft. forward, 17 ft. aft.	2,000
No. 2	,, ...	200	25	10 ft. forward, 16 ft. aft.	1,000
No. 3	,, ...	80	13 ft. 8 in.	5 3	40

necessary tools and appliances for the repairing of ships are he dockyards. The Sutherland Graving Dock at Cockatoo e property of the Government, is one of the largest single he world, and is capable of receiving vessels drawing 32 feet During the year 1896, 149 vessels, of which 8 were British ar, were docked at Cockatoo Island, 70 being repaired in the ock, and 79 in the Sutherland Dock, the gross tonnage of the ing 108,217. The dock receipts for the twelve months to £3,307, and the expenditure to £1,849, exclusive of cost of construction.

ral facilities for shipping Sydney stands unrivalled. The water ruptly from the shores, so that the largest vessels may be ongside the wharfs and quays. The Government hold the Sydney Cove, along the margin of which magnificent echelon e been constructed, which are capable of berthing vessels of

7,000 tons register. The depth of water at low tide ranges between 2
30 feet, and the wharfs have an available frontage of 6,530 feet
large part of the wharfage at Pyrmont and Darling Harbour, and C
Wharf at Woolloomooloo Bay, are also in the hands of the State, an
fitted with steam cranes and other appliances for the speedy discha
the largest ships constructed. The appliances for handling cargo o
Pyrmont wharfs, which are 3,500 feet in length, consist of four
cranes of ten tons each, and on all the jetties the railway line is laid
to the water's edge. The Government wharfs at Darling Harbo
4,000 feet in length, and are fitted with one steam crane of ten
Cowper Wharf, at Woolloomooloo Bay, is 3,000 feet in length, and
contains excellent accommodation for large vessels. At Black
Bay there is a Government wharf 1,400 feet in length, and at
Bay a jetty 230 feet in length has been erected. The wharfage fro
in Port Jackson belonging to the Government is about 18,890
Powerful shipping appliances and roomy stores, as well as electric
ing, are to be found on all the important wharfs. The total fro
of the public and private wharfs amounts to about 7 miles.

Newcastle is also a well-equipped port, where vessels of 4,000
can be safely berthed; and every modern steam and hydraulic appl
for loading coal is found on its wharfs. The Government owns
all the wharfage, which extends over a length of about 12,532
The total length of the Bullock Island wharf is 7,760 feet, in ad
to which there are four ballast jetties 50 feet long and 200 feet
5,550 feet of the wharf is used for the shipment of coal. There
hydraulic cranes of from 9 to 25 tons, each capable of shipping
tons of coal in twenty-four hours; and 3 steam cranes of 15 ton
is proposed to spend £150,000 immediately in further increasin
shipping facilities at Bullock Island. On the town side of the ha
there are 3,607 feet of Government wharfs, extending in a conti
line, 2,130 feet being set apart for cargo berths for deep-draught v
977 feet for timber and general cargo for light-draught vessels, an
feet for passenger steamers. The wharf at Stockton is 600 feet
all of which is used for the shipment of coal, with one 15-ton
crane and one shoot. In addition to the appliances mentioned,
are seven private shoots for the loading of coal. By the port regula
steamers are required to receive coal at the steam cranes on B
Island at the rate of 500 tons per day, and at the rate of 600 t
the hydraulic cranes. Sailing vessels are expected to receive at
400 tons per day from the steam cranes, and 600 tons per day fro
hydraulic cranes. It is estimated that 28,800 tons of coal per da
be shipped at Newcastle when all the appliances belonging t
Government and private companies are brought into use. The
also two slips owned by private individuals, capable of taking up
of 100 and 1,100 tons respectively. Staiths, cranes, and other
shipping appliances have been erected at Wollongong, Bulli, Coa
and other ports. Private as well as Government wharfs are fou

hief centres of population along the rivers of the colony, and with a trade of any importance have their jetties and shipping

revenue derived from public wharfs at Sydney, Newcastle, ong, and other ports in 1896 was £65,518, of which sum Sydney ted £53,503, made up of £6,005 for tonnage dues, and £47,498 rfage dues, rent, etc.; Newcastle, £8,319 for tonnage dues, no e rates being collected at this port; and Wollongong, £1,412, viz., r tonnage dues, and £1,280 for wharfage dues, rent, etc. At ports han those mentioned, an amount of £2,284 was collected for e rates, rent of jetties, etc., making the total receipts as stated.

LIGHTHOUSES.

oast of New South Wales is well provided with lighthouses, the at the end of 1896 being 23, besides which there were 17 lights and light-ships for the safety of harbour navigation. The erecting the lighthouses was £186,081, in addition to which a £27,006 was spent on lanterns, making a total expenditure of 87 on construction and equipment. The South Solitary Island use cost the largest sum to construct, namely, £31,259, exclusive mount paid for the lanterns. The Macquarie revolving electric n the South Head of Port Jackson, is one of the most powerful n the world, and is visible 25 miles at sea.

SHIPWRECKS.

coast of New South Wales is free from any source of danger to navigating it, and where reasonable precautions were taken wrecks en very rare. There are only two lifeboat stations on the coast, the Sydney Heads, and the other at Newcastle; but the whale- t the various pilot stations have been fitted with cork linings, erwise made useful for the work of rescue, in which many of ve been of excellent service. The steam tugs subsidised by the Board for the towing of ships in and out of port, are also e for the purpose of rendering assistance to vessels in distress; saving appliances are kept at certain places along the coast. jority of losses have been amongst vessels under 100 tons burden. the year 1896 there were 10 wrecks within the jurisdiction of uth Wales, the total tonnage of the vessels being 1,078, and their ncluding cargoes, £19,310. Two lives were lost out of a total The largest vessel which met with disaster was the steamer ga," 259 tons, which was wrecked on Bellambi Reef near Wol- . The barquentine "Karoola," 201 tons, was wrecked at Morna ear Port Stephens, two lives being lost out of a total of eight on The only other vessels over 100 tons burden which were wrecked 1896 were the steamers "Favorite" and "Chindera," each of s; the former foundered off Clarence Heads, and the latter, ttempting to enter the Tweed River, was wrecked on the bar.

The following statement shows the number of vessels which wrecked on the coast of New South Wales, or otherwise withi jurisdiction of the colony, during the ten years 1887–96 :—

Year.	Under 50 tons.	50 to 100.	100 to 200.	200 to 300.	300 to 400.	400 to 500.	Over 500 tons.	Total.
1887	4	5	2	1	...	...	1	13
1888	6	2	3	1	1	1	1	15
1889	4	8	5	2	...	...	1	20
1890	3	6	2	1	1	...	3	16
1891	3	10	3	...	...	1	1	18
1892	4	5	2	...	...	...	...	11
1893	4	3	6	1	1	...	...	15
1894	5	10	1	...	1	...	1	18
1895	3	4	...	...	...	1	2	10
1896	2	4	2	2	...	...	...	10

During the year 1896 the Marine Board of New South Wales, in Sydney, and the local Board at Newcastle, held nineteen inq Eleven masters were examined for the loss of vessels, five exonerated, and the certificates of four suspended—each for a pe three months—one was reprimanded and cautioned, and in one c evidence was adduced on which to found a charge of default. inquiries into collisions were also conducted, one master being cen and the certificates of three suspended. Two inquiries into the str of vessels resulted in the mate's certificate of one vessel being susp and the dismissal of the case in respect of the other. Two in were held into the supposed loss of missing ships.

DREDGING FLEET.

To keep open and improve the harbours and coastal rivers the Department in 1896 had employed 12 ladder dredges, with an att fleet of 29 punts having an aggregate tonnage of 8,680 ; 15 grab d 8 sand-pump or suction dredges ; and 4 combined grab and sand dredges. Besides the dredging plant there were 23 tugs employed sea, and on other service appertaining to dredging operations. k done and the cost for the year 1896 for each class of dredge

i e.	Tons Dredged.	Hours Dredging.	Expenditure.				
			Dredging only.			Dredging and Towing.	
			Total.	Per ton.	Per hour.	Total.	Per ton.
			£	pence.	£ s. d.	£	pence.
....	3,303,241	19,942	34,150	2·48	1 14 2	47,524	3·45
np ...	3,092,825	12,265	21,857	1·69	1 15 7	22,218	1·72
l Sand	405,830	3,415	4,326	2·55	1 5 4	4,847	2·83
....	639,381	23,248	11,802	4·42	0 10 1	15,116	5·67
....	7,441,277	58,870	72,135	2·32	1 4 6	89,705	2·89

naterial dredged consisted for the most part of sand and mud, ffer material was raised by some of the dredges. The details at while the average cost of dredging by ladder dredges was er ton, more than one-third of the total raised cost not more than and the most expensive dredging was at the rate of 5·34d. The raising material by grab dredges was on an average 4·42d. per e least cost being 1·83d. for sand and mud. A considerable y of rock and boulders was removed by these dredges, otherwise rage cost would not have been higher than 3·90d. per ton. The imp dredges, eight in number, removed 3,092,825 tons during hours, at the rate of 252 tons for each dredge per hour, the cost being £1 15s. 7d. an hour, or 1·69d. per ton.

ost of dredging in New South Wales compares very favourably at in other countries. Comparing the work done at the mouth Hunter River at Newcastle with dredging on the Clyde, below r, it is found that the cost of lifting soft material by ladder of equal power was in the former case 1·57d. per ton, and in er, 2·06d.; at Sydney, where the material removed was sand, d sewage, the cost was 1·74d.—a satisfactory result, especially is considered that wages are twice as high in the colony as in ritain, and chandlery and other stores are dearer.

FARES AND FREIGHTS.

Looking at the extensive passenger traffic and shipping trade South Wales, it would naturally be expected that a liberal scale and freights would be in force, and this will be found actually In many instances, indeed, the intercolonial rates have been ext low, owing to the keen competition among the various steamshi panies. The following figures will give an idea of the average pa rates during 1896 :—

Ports.	Fares.	
	First Class.	Second Class.
NEW SOUTH WALES PORTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bateman's Bay	1 0 0	0 10 0
Bellinger River	1 15 0	1 0 0
Byron Bay	2 0 0	1 0 0
Clarence River	1 10 0	0 15 0
Eden	1 10 0	0 15 0
Macleay River	1 10 0	0 15 0
Manning River	1 5 0	0 15 0
Nambucca River	1 10 0	0 15 0
Newcastle	0 5 0	0 2 0
Port Macquarie	1 10 0	0 15 0
Ballina	1 10 0	0 15 0
Lismore	1 15 0	1 0 0
Ulladulla	0 15 0	0 10 0
Wollongong	0 4 0	0 2 6
VICTORIAN PORT.		
Melbourne	2 0 0 3 10 0	0 15 0 1 0 0
QUEENSLAND PORTS.		
Burketown	15 5 0	7 5 0
Bowen	7 10 0	3 15 0
Brisbane	3 0 0	1 0 0
Bundaberg	4 10 0	1 15 0
Cairns	8 10 0	4 10 0
Cooktown	9 10 0	5 0 0
Mackay	7 0 0	3 10 0
Maryborough	4 0 0	1 10 0
Mourilyan Harbour	8 10 0	4 10 0
Normanton	13 10 0	6 15 0
Rockhampton	6 0 0	2 15 0
Townsville	8 0 0	4 0 0
Thursday Island	12 15 0	9 15 0
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PORTS.		
Adelaide	3 7 0 6 10 0	2 0 0 4 10 0
Port Pirie	3 10 0	2 0 0
Port Darwin (Northern Territory).	18 0 0	9 0 0
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PORTS.		
Albany	8 10 0 12 0 0	4 0 0 8 0 0
Perth (Fremantle)	8 0 0	5 0 0
TASMANIAN PORTS		
Hobart	1 10 0 2 5 0	1 0 0
Launceston	2 10 0	1 0 0
NEW ZEALAND PORTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	4 0 0	2 5 0
Dunedin (via Cook Strait	5 10 0	3 5 0
Lyttleton " "	4 15 0	2 5 0
Napier (via Auckland)	5 10 0	3 5 0
Wellington	4 0 0	2 5 0
EUROPEAN PORTS.		
Antwerp	57 0 0	35 0 0
Bremen	57 0 0	35 0 0
Brindisi	£55 to £65	£32 to £3
Genoa	52 0 0	30 0 0
London	£60–£70	£35 to £4
Marseilles	65 0 0	40 0 0
Naples	£50–£65	£30 to £3
Southampton	57 0 0	35 0 0
Venice	£55–£65	32 0 0
EASTERN PORTS.		
Aden	45 0 0	£30 to £3
Bombay	40 0 0	£25 to £27 10s.
Calcutta	40 0 0	£25 to £27 10s.
Colombo	35 0 0	£25 to £27 10s.
Hong Kong	33 0 0	23 0
Java	27 0 0	....
Penang	30 10 0	....
Port Moresby	22 10 0	14 0
Shanghai	37 10 0	28 0
Singapore	38 0 0	27 0
Mauritius	52 0 0	35 12
Port Said	£53–£63	£31 to £
Reunion	51 0 0	35 0
Yokohama	39 15 0	27 0
PACIFIC PORTS.		
Aneityum	10 10 0	6 0
Fiji (Suva and Levuka.	10 0 0	6 0
Havannah (New Hebrides)	12 0 0	7 0
Honolulu	30 0 0	12 0
Noumea	10 0 0	7 0
Samoa Islands	20 0 0	10 0
San Francisco	40 0 0	16 0
Tonga Islands	16 0 0	9 10
Vancouver	40 0 0	16 0
SOUTH AFRICAN PORT.		
Cape Town	35 0 0	....

by sailing vessels are in nearly every instance a matter of arrangement between the captain of the vessel and the intending er, but the number of such passengers is becoming smaller from year owing to the great decrease in steamer fares. Fares from to London are, however, given as £35 to £45 first class, and £18 second class; and from Newcastle to San Francisco as £20 to

freights paid for the carriage of wool to London determine, certain limits, the freight of most other produce. The present cost of carriage of greasy wool to London is $\frac{5}{16}$d. per lb.; in he average was somewhat over 3d. Information regarding is not available for early years, but since 1857, as the following ures show, the freights on pressed greasy wool have fallen cent. The freights are in every case for sailing ships, as the of shipping wool by steamers was by no means general until cent years.

Year.	Freight per lb.	Year.	Freight per lb.	Year.	Freight per lb.
1857	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1871	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1885	$\frac{3}{8}$d.
1858	$\frac{3}{8}$d.	1872	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1886	$\frac{3}{8}$d.
1859	$\frac{3}{8}$d.	1873	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1887	$\frac{3}{8}$d.
1860	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1874	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1888	$\frac{7}{16}$d.
1861	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1875	$\frac{3}{8}$d.	1889	$\frac{7}{16}$d.
1862	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1876	$\frac{1}{2}$d.	1890	$\frac{7}{16}$d.
1863	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1877	$\frac{3}{8}$d.	1891	$\frac{7}{16}$d.
1864	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1878	$\frac{7}{16}$d.	1892	$\frac{11}{32}$d.
1865	$\frac{1}{2}$d.	1879	$\frac{1}{2}$d.	1893	$\frac{13}{32}$d.
1866	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1880	$\frac{11}{16}$d.	1894	$\frac{13}{32}$d.
1867	$\frac{3}{4}$d.	1881	$\frac{7}{8}$d.	1895	$\frac{11}{32}$d.
1868	$\frac{9}{16}$d.	1882	$\frac{5}{8}$d.	1896	$\frac{5}{16}$d.
1869	$\frac{1}{2}$d.	1883	$\frac{1}{2}$d.		
1870	$\frac{3}{8}$d.	1884	$\frac{3}{8}$d.		

The following table of freights calls for no particular comment, prices have remained fairly uniform for several years, except wh slightly affected by temporary causes :—

Year.	Vessel.	Per lb.	Per ton weight.			Per ton measurement (40 cubic feet).	
		Wool (Greasy).	Tallow.	Leather.	Hides.	Preserved Meats.	Measur Goods
1887	Sailing	5/16d. to ⅜d.	22/6 to 30/-	30/- to 35/-	15/- to 20/-	25/-	25/-
	Steam	⅜d. to ⅝d.	30/- to 45/-	40/- to 50/-	....	....	25/- to
1888	Sailing	5/16d. to 7/16d.	25/- to 45/-	30/- to 45/-	20/-	25/- to 30/-	25/- to
	Steam	½d. to ¾d.	30/- to 52/6	35/- to 50/-	....	30/-	60/-
1889	Sailing	5/16d. to 7/16d.	25/- to 45/-	27/6 to 45/-	15/- to 20/-	22/6	20/- to
	Steam	½d. to ¾d.	25/- to 50/-	40/- to 60/-	....	....	....
1890	Sailing	⅜d. to ½d.	32/6 to 47/6	35/- to 45/-	15/- to 25/-	25/- to 30/-	25/- to
	Steam	½d. to ⅝d.	35/- to 50/-	45/- to 60/-	....	30/-	60/-
1891	Sailing	¼d. to 7/16d.	26/- to 45/-	27/6 to 40/-	20/- to 30/-	17/6 to 25/-	22/6 to
	Steam	5/16d. to ¾d.	32/6 to 45/-	32/6 to 50/-	30/- to 35/-	....	22/6 to
1892	Sailing	⅜d. to 9/16d.	27/6 to 37/6	27/6 to 40/-	15/- to 22/6	20/- to 27/6	27/6 to
	Steam	⅜d. to ¾d.	45/- to 50/-	40/- to 60/-	35/-	32/6 to 40/-	40/- to
1893	Sailing	5/16d. to ½d.	25/- to 40/-	25/- to 40/-	15/- to 22/6	15/- to 17/6	25/- to
	Steam	⅜d. to ⅝d.	35/- to 50/-	35/- to 60/-	30/- to 40/-	30/-	40/- to
1894	Sailing	⅜d. to 7/16d.	32/6 to 37/6	32/6 to 40/-	17/6 to 20/-	17/6	25/- to
	Steam	⅜d. to ½d.	40/- to 50/-	35/- to 50/-	30/-	25/- to 30/-	35/- to
1895	Sailing	5/16d. to ⅜d.	17/6 to 35/-	30/- to 40/-	15/- to 22/6	15/- to 17/6	20/- to
	Steam	5/16d. to ½d.	22/6 to 40/-	35/- to 65/-	25/- to 40/-	20/- to 30/-	30/- to
1896	Sailing	¼d. to 5/16d.	12/6 to 25/-	25/- to 30/-	15/- to 17/6	12/6 to 15/-	17/6 to
	Steam	¼d. to ½d.	12/6 to 35/-	27/6 to 45/-	25/- to 40/-	20/- to 30/-	20/- to

COMMERCE.

THE Collector of Customs administers affairs relating to Customs and Excise, and receives all revenue derived from the charges on hipping, except the fees of the Marine Board, and the moneys eceived from the public wharfs. A Board, consisting of three Com-missioners, exists for the purpose of determining disputes between the eneral public and the officers of the department, but its decisions may e disallowed by the Governor or appealed against to the Supreme ourt, with final reference to the Privy Council.

The coastal trade of the colony may be conducted under one of two ystems—either the captain of a vessel may obtain a document, called "Transire," permitting his ship to engage in the local carrying trade or a period of three months, or he may enter the particulars of his argo in a book kept for that purpose, and have the entries initialled at he Custom House every voyage. It is not necessary to pass entries r goods shipped from one port of the colony to another, although, of ourse, excisable articles are carried under a bond certificate. With egard to merchandise destined for or received from abroad, a ifferent course of procedure is adopted. A declaration must be made the Customs of the quantities and values of all imports, except such oods as have been brought into port for transhipment, of which only a escription of the packages is entered, there being no law in existence quiring merchants to supply the quantities and values of such goods. f articles which are subject to specific duties, the values declared by e importers are understood to be the values at the port of shipment, ith packing, freight, insurance, and all other charges added. The eclared values of the goods are checked, and, where wrongly stated, mended by the Customs officials. Dutiable articles may be reintro-uced to the colony under reintroduction certificates, which are issued the Customs Department for the port or border station at which is desired to reintroduce the goods. All goods seized by the ustoms are submitted to auction sale, and if they do not realise the ount of duty leviable on them they are withdrawn and destroyed.

The entries for imports passed at the Customs do not in every case ow the countries from which the goods have actually come, but ually the places at which they were shipped. This is an imperfection idental to all Customs statistics, which in the present method of ducting trade cannot be avoided. The desirability of recording the ual place of origin is admitted and the Customs officers go so far as to alter the entries where the nature of the goods clearly shows th they have arrived from another country than the one stated. In lik manner the exports of the colony are in many cases cleared for othe countries than those for which they are ultimately destined, and it i estimated that some £4,309,000 of goods in transit to Europe ar credited in the Customs to Victoria and South Australia.

Although goods transhipped at Sydney and other ports are not included in the trade returns of the colony, in some of the provinces to which they are forwarded they are treated as exports of New South Wales, and there is in consequence a discrepancy between the interchange figures published in this colony and those of the other colonies where the practice mentioned prevails. Dutiable articles carried by vessels for use or consumption on board are, however, classed as exports here when the vessels clear, but no account is taken of goods on the free list. The quantities and values of exports are not, as in the case of the imports, obtained under declaration, but the Collector of Customs has power to adopt this form of procedure should he think it advisable to do so. The values given in the returns represent the values of the goods at the place of shipment in the colony, and are checked by the Customs officers with the prices ruling from day to day in the local markets.

INCREASE OF TRADE.

The value of goods imported into and exported from New South Wales has increased during the seventy-one years over which the records extend, from £400,000 in 1825 to £43,571,859 in 1896. The yearly values have been somewhat uncertain in their increase, the imports from 1840 to 1852 being especially erratic; but of late years the progress of the colony, as evidenced by its trade, has been remarkably steady, the largest falling off in any year being that experienced in 1892. The gross value of the exports from year to year, for the reasons hereafter pointed out, forms the surest index of the progress of a country circumstanced like New South Wales, and the result of a rise or fall in the value of the staple commodities, or of a depression in production, may be readily traced in the corresponding rise or fall in the export values. The amount of the trade of the colony, for the several periods shown, was :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
1825	300,000	100,000	400,000	1890	22,615,004	22,045,937	44,660,94
1830	420,480	141,461	561,941	1891	25,383,397	25,944,020	51,327,41
1840	3,014,189	1,399,692	4,413,881	1892	20,776,526	21,972,247	42,748,77
1850	2,078,338	2,399,580	4,477,918	1893	18,107,035	22,921,223	41,028,2
1860	7,755,859	6,311,351	14,067,210	1894	15,801,941	20,577,673	36,379,61
1870	8,284,378	8,030,578	16,314,956	1895	15,992,415	21,934,785	37,927,2
1880	14,176,063	15,682,802	29,858,865	1896	20,561,510	23,010,349	43,571,8

owing table shows the total value of the trade of New South h each of the principal countries during the year 1896 :—

COUNTRIES.	Total Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.			Total Trade.
		Domestic Produce or Manufacture.	Other Produce or Manufacture.	Total.	
COLONIES :—	£	£	£	£	£
	2,115,721	2,767,303	529,148	3,296,461	5,412,172
	4,679,456	414,808	812,946	1,227,754	5,907,210
alia	1,436,927	2,454,850	265,524	2,720,374	4,157,301
tralia	25,351	217,223	316,042	533,265	558,616
	597,706	45,774	121,625	167,399	765,105
l	704,699	153,853	275,730	429,583	1,134,282
Australasian Colonies	9,559,860	6,053,811	2,321,015	8,374,826	17,934,686
OM	7,190,115	6,486,907	1,888,976	8,375,883	15,566,998
POSSESSIONS :—					
minion	83,810	8,436	3,119	11,555	95,365
	113,352	6,516	269	6,785	120,137
	36,058	35,194	72,530	107,724	143,782
	75,860	19,216	166,385	185,601	261,461
	203,176	125,059	1,144	126,203	329,379
ments	19,877	18,598	515	19,113	38,990
	73,635	19,530	78	19,608	93,243
h Possessions	19,396	25,454	18,285	43,739	63,135
Other British Possessions	625,164	258,003	262,325	520,328	1,145,492
TRIES :—					
	104,293	694,648	183,232	877,880	982,173
	190,545	6,442	1,435	7,877	198,422
	145,972	1,214,374	258,535	1,472,909	1,618,881
	690,843	639,038	132,351	771,389	1,462,232
	48,925	22,289	18,391	40,680	89,005
	40,857	29,810	5,713	35,523	76,380
ia	41,203	40,179	70,156	110,335	151,598
lands and New Hebrides	75,470	18,497	62,019	80,516	155,986
s	1,729,871	1,027,096	1,037,868	2,064,964	3,794,835
n Countries	118,332	251,597	25,642	277,239	395,571
Foreign Countries	3,186,371	3,943,970	1,795,342	5,739,312	8,925,683
eral Total	20,561,510	16,742,691	6,267,658	23,010,349	43,571,859

total trade shown above, nine-elevenths are sea-borne, the two-elevenths comprising the overland trade with the three colonies of Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria. Nearly of the seaward trade is monopolised by the ports of Sydney and , the trade of the other six ports amounting to little more than and of this amount eight-ninths belong to the port of Wollon- ie distribution of the overland trade is much more equal, as the n below will illustrate. The value of the overland trade ria during 1896 was £3,295,820; that with South Australia £3,361,798; and the Queensland overland trade was worth 1. Wool and live stock formed the bulk of this traffic with and Queensland, as it did until recent years with South also; but since the development in 1886 of the mines in the strict, the chief elements of export have been silver bullion,

lead, and ore; and the imports, general merchandise for Broken
The appended table shows the trade of each of the ports and b
stations of the colony during 1896. Some of the latter—Wilca
and Bourke, for instance—are situated at a considerable distance
the actual border.

Port or Station.	Imports.	Exports.			Tot Tra
		New South Wales Produce.	British and Foreign Produce.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
SEAWARD.					
Sydney	16,821,742	10,621,727	6,017,120	16,638,847	33,46
Clarence River (Grafton)	484	6,131	....	6,131	
Eden	1,271	1,265	4	1,269	
Newcastle	611,880	1,484,822	11,865	1,496,687	2,10
Port Macquarie............	....	1,168	....	1,168	
Richmond River (Ballina)	2	....	17	17	
Tweed River	460	32	1,535	1,567	
Wollongong	....	94,925	....	94,925	9
Total ....£	17,435,839	12,210,070	6,030,541	18,240,611	35,67
OVERLAND.					
Albury	614,779	483, 39	59,086	542,225	1,15
Barringun	227,292	10,184	8,519	18,703	24
Boggabilla	96,493	24,315	....	24,315	12
Bourke (Inland)	9,089	49	4,436	4,485	1
Brewarrina (Inland)	....	....	42	42	
Cobram	23,033	40,304	1,381	41,685	6
Corowa	69,815	200,967	2,491	203,458	27
Delegate	206	... .	....	....	
Euston	3,729	44,042	4	44,046	4
Genoa	12	....	... .	....	
Howlong	6,947	14,492	162	14,654	2
Moama	251,390	603,173	4,257	607,430	85
Mulwala	53,530	97,898	63	97,961	15
Mungindi . .	38,762	....	....	....	3
Swan Hill . . .	15,280	358,794	76	358,870	37
Tocumwal . . .	49,383	138,063	8,244	146,307	19
Tweed Heads .	8,706	.. ..	....	....	8
Wallangarra .	217,749	44,308	85,172	129,480	34
Wentworth	73,501	528,157	1,327	529,484	60
Wilcannia (Inland)	60,694		176	176	6
Wilcannia (Broken Hill)	928,536	1,905,547	61,681	1,967,228	2,8
Other Crossing places (Live Stock) ..	376,745	39,189	....	39,189	41
Total . £	3,125,671	4,532,621	237,117	4,769,738	7,8
Grand Total	£20,561,510	16,742,691	6,267,658	23,010,349	43,67

TRADE OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

trade of New South Wales is larger in gross amount than that y of the other colonies of Australasia, but it is exceeded by the erce of Western Australia and South Australia in value per head pulation. The total trade of each colony for 1880, 1890, and 1896 en in the following table, and though the last year was one of sion as compared with 1890 and 1891, the magnitude of the trade, nly of this colony but of the rest of the group, is very suggestive. ll be seen that the trade of Victoria ranks second in value, and that other colonies in the following order :—New Zealand, South ralia, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

Colony.	1880.	1890.	1896.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	29,858,865	44,660,941	43,571,859
Victoria	30,511,453	36,220,237	28,753,355
Queensland	6,535,456	13,621,212	14,596,997
*South Australia	11,156,003	17,328,301	15,006,585
Western Australia	852,852	1,546,260	8,143,783
Tasmania	2,881,154	3,384,504	2,688,986
New Zealand	12,514,703	16,072,245	16,458,425
Australasia	94,310,486	132,833,700	129,219,990

* Including Northern Territory.

IMPORTS.

uring 1896, the gross value of goods imported into the colony unted to £20,561,510, or at the rate of £15 19s. 4d. per head; the rts for home consumption were valued at £14,293,852, or £11 2s. head of the mean population during the year, showing an increase on previous year of £3 6s. 5d. per head of gross imports, and of £2 16s. head of net imports. In 1891, the gross imports averaged £22 11d. and the imports for home consumption £18 19s. 9d.; but from year the values per head of population steadily declined, the figures 1895 being the lowest reached during the thirty-six years that had ed since the colony was restricted to its present boundaries. The g off was due to two chief causes—first, to the large diminution in and private borrowings ; and, second, to the fall in prices, which xtended to nearly all the commodities that the colony imports, 896, however, the imports per head of population were considerably r than those for the preceding three years.

The value of the imports per inhabitant, distinguishing those fo home consumption from the total imports, was as follows for the yea shown :—

Year.	Imports for home consumption.	Total Imports per head.	Year.	Imports for home consumption.	Total Imports per head.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1870	12 7 8	15 16 6	1890	16 0 8	20 0 6
1875	19 14 10	23 9 11	1891	18 19 9	22 3 11
1880	15 4 9	19 9 0	1892	13 19 2	17 11 7
1885	18 19 8	25 12 0	1893	10 2 11	14 19 2
1886	16 2 3	21 19 8	1894	8 19 11	12 15 5
1887	13 10 8	19 1 7	1895	8 6 0	12 12 11
1888	13 16 2	20 9 11	1896	11 2 0	15 19 4
1889	16 3 10	21 8 9			

For the purpose of more readily understanding the nature of th imports, they have been classified under certain leading heads, an during 1896 the value of each class was as shown below :—

Classification.	Total Imports.	Imports for home consumption.
	£	£
Food and beverages, including breadstuffs	3,474,427	2,981,917
Wines, fermented and spirituous liquors	687,804	604,274
Live stock	980,891	890,000
Animal and vegetable products, including wool	3,368,662	1,476,500
Clothing and textile fabrics	4,170,825	3,784,683
Minerals and metals, raw or partly worked up, including silver bullion, lead, and ore	1,333,538	888,297
Coal and coke	137,989	137,989
Specie and gold bullion	2,482,409	281,221
Articles of education, art, amusement	922,812	771,671
Manufactured articles not elsewhere included	2,503,539	2,109,707
Unclassified articles	498,614	367,593
Total value £	20,561,510	14,293,852

The import of coal and coke during 1896, amounting to £137,989 shown above, consisted almost entirely of coke required for smelti purposes at Broken Hill.

During 1896 the colony imported food and drink for its own co sumption to the value of £3,586,191, or at the rate of £2 15s. 9d. for e inhabitant, and manufactured goods to the amount of £6,666,061, at the rate of £5 3s. 6d. per head, together representing £7 19s. per head, out of a total of £11 2s. The three principal items of th balance are live stock, animal and vegetable products, and mine and metals raw or partly worked up. Of the animal and vegeta

as also of the minerals and metals, some portion is worked up
ony for local requirements ; but the greater portion of the gold
is treated at the Mint, and re-exported in the shape of coin.
e per head of some of the principal articles imported for home
ion during the last five years is given below :—

Articles.	1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wearing, and gloves	20	5	12	9	12	10	13	9	15	1
le	5	7	4	5	3	11	3	4	3	9
shoes	7	3	5	7	4	4	4	3	5	4
	32	7	25	1	23	9	28	0	28	0
se, etc.—										
	8	3	3	8	3	4	2	3	7	7
	3	2	1	3	0	5	0	11	7	11
	2	5	2	6	1	1	1	2	1	6
	9	11	5	1	2	4	2	8	3	4
teel—										
tured wrought	4	2	2	10	2	5	3	3	4	1
lack and galvanized)	3	5	1	7	1	5	1	2	1	11
ed sheets and bars	3	11	2	7	2	10	2	0	2	5
—										
cattle	8	6	8	0	4	9	4	2	7	8
	2	9	1	10	1	9	1	3	1	3
	3	10	5	0	3	2	2	3	4	8
	4	2	2	4	2	0	2	5	6	1
ks, etc.	6	5	5	5	5	0	5	7	4	9
	6	2	5	7	4	8	4	7	4	8
	7	4	5	9	8	5	6	5	7	2
	5	11	4	10	5	1	4	6	3	4
ressed and rough)	7	3	5	2	4	6	4	7	4	11
igars, and cigarettes	3	2	2	3	1	10	2	8	2	6

nport of drapery stands first in the list of values, and if
apparel be added to it the value of these goods would re-
sum of £2 3s. 1d. per head during 1896, the greatest amount
one year having been in 1882, when the value imported
lmost £5 for every inhabitant. The value per head in 1896
nd steel, machinery, and hardware combined, was 17s. 10d. ;
d flour, 15s. 6d. ; intoxicants, 9s. 5d., of which the value of
as 4s. 8d. and of beer 3s. 9d. ; sugar, 7s. 2d. ; tea, 3s. 4d. ;
oks, etc., 4s. 9d. ; and boots and shoes, 5s. 4d. None of the
lues reach such large figures except those for live stock and
hough many other articles form individually very important
Two things are plain from a consideration of this table—the
rchasing power of the people, though now greatly reduced
l with what it was ten years ago, and the very large scope
ts for the production of goods which are now imported, and
tension of manufactures within the colony. This will, perhaps,

be seen more clearly from the gross values of some of the prin articles imported during the year 1896, as given in the following tabl

Apparel, Wearing	£1,161,834	Live stock	£96
Arms and ammunition	129,346	Malt and hops	13
Beer	260,664	Matches	[illegible]
Boots and shoes	381,233	Milk, Condensed	[illegible]
Butter	85,606	Musical instruments	8
Candles	59,840	Oils—mineral and vegetable	19
Chaff and hay	238,849	Paints, paperhangings, lampware	11
Cement	47,805	Paper, books, stationery etc.	35
Cutlery and grindery	76,195	Pickles, sauces, and oilmen's stores	7
Drapery	2,238,368	Potatoes and other vegetables	20
Drugs and apothecaries' ware	166,696	Saddlery and harness and saddler's ware	4
Fancy goods and toys	152,077	Silver plate and ware	6
Fish, Preserved	98,621	Skins and hides	32
Flour	536,460	Spirits	34
Fruit, Bottled, dried, and green	367,272	Sugar	53
Furniture and upholstery	84,920	Tea	[illegible]
Glass and glassware	77,219	Timber	33
Grain and pulse	820,984	Tinplates	7
Hardware	261,190	Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	23
Iron and iron manufactures and machinery	1,282,562	Watches and clocks	4
Jams and jellies	24,463	Wine	6
Jewellery and precious stones	105,858		
Leather	81,502		

The value of the imports into New South Wales, distinguished u the main countries of origin, for 1870 and subsequent periods en with 1896, was as undernoted:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Australasian Colonies.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign States.	Tot
	£	£	£	£	£
1870	3,200,706	3,677,927	573,462	832,283	8,28
1875	6,062,226	5,878,751	867,252	926,904	13,73
1880	6,536,661	5,945,788	539,334	1,154,280	14,17
1885	11,885,597	8,595,429	818,689	2,437,746	23,73
1886	10,445,980	8,085,584	621,507	2,160,056	21,31
1887	7,998,568	9,017,035	549,345	1,606,369	19,17
1888	9,212,981	9,085,567	736,224	2,194,505	21,22
1889	8,736,478	10,647,312	814,718	2,664,549	22,86
1890	8,628,007	10,981,721	663,325	2,341,951	22,61
1891	10,580,230	11,127,178	766,947	2,909,042	25,38
1892	8,883,983	9,201,193	577,707	2,113,643	20,77
1893	7,218,124	8,895,787	565,491	1,427,633	18,10
1894	5,988,489	7,794,168	608,356	1,415,928	15,80
1895	6,420,107	7,321,668	611,021	1,639,619	15,9
1896	7,190,115	9,559,860	625,164	3,186,371	20,5

The question of the trade with different countries will be retur later on in this chapter. It may here be pointed out that the Cu urns do not enable goods to be traced to their place of origin—merely the place where they are shipped. A larger trade is maintained by e colonies with foreign States than would appear from the foregoing ble, as the products of these States are sent to Australia by way of eat Britain. The imports set down as coming from the other stralasian colonies include the British and foreign goods introduced o New South Wales overland from Victoria and South Australia.

EXPORTS.

he export trade of New South Wales, like the import, is larger than t of any other Australasian colony. For the reasons which will herer appear, until 1890 the exports usually fell short of the imports; for the last six years this condition of things has been reversed, the exports exceeded the imports by £560,623 in 1891, £1,195,721 1892, £4,814,188 in 1893, £4,775,732 in 1894, £5,942,370 in 1895, l £2,448,839 in 1896. Compared with those of other colonies, the ent of the New South Wales exports of home produce is very satistory, as will be evident at a glance at the subsequent table, which ws the total export trade in domestic produce, and the amount per d of the population, of each of the Australian colonies during the r 1896. It will be seen that, in point of value per head of popuion, New South Wales takes third place in the list:—

Colony.	Total Exports of Domestic Produce.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	16,742,691	13 0 0
Victoria	11,054,824	9 7 8
Queensland	8,924,186	19 2 9
South Australia	3,416,140	9 10 5
Western Australia	1,603,748	13 8 3
Tasmania	1,473,429	9 0 3
New Zealand	9,177,336	12 19 10
Australasia £	52,392,354	12 4 9

There is a defect in these figures, as far, at least, as two of the colonies concerned. Victoria and South Australia have each a large re-export de, especially in raw produce, and it frequently happens that credit is en for the produce of other colonies in the returns showing their export home produce. New South Wales was formerly over-credited with l received from Queensland for coinage, and is still, to some extent, h tin and copper imported from Queensland and South Australia, and h cattle from the northern colony. To what extent the Customs ue of home produce is overstated in Victoria and South Australia is nown, but much of the New South Wales produce passing through toria for shipment to England is exported as Victorian produce, especially wool, of which large quantities shipped from the neighbo colony as home produce are really the production of New South W How far this system obtains in other directions it is impossible to

Dividing the exports of New South Wales into two classes— which are the produce and manufacture of the colony, and those imp from other countries—the preponderance of home produce export very marked. The value of the domestic exports in 1896 was more twice that in 1872, and, speaking generally, the expansion has of a steady character. Wool constitutes the largest item of dom export, and any fluctuation in the production or market value of staple is plainly marked in the whole trade. The decline in the of domestic exports between 1880 and 1886, which the following shows, is to a great extent due to the fall in the price of wool, and to losses brought about by the succession of dry seasons. The exports produce other than that of the colony also show a decline about period, ascribable in part to the causes which affected the general ports, and to the establishment of direct communication between G Britain and Queensland and Tasmania :—

Year.	Domestic produce exported.		Other produce exported, including gold.	Total Exports.
	Gold.	Commodities.		
	£	£	£	£
1872	1,242,926	5,964,621	3,276,109	10,483,656
1873	1,962,094	7,694,202	3,108,578	12,764,874
1874	577,789	8,408,483	3,471,703	12,457,975
1875	635,448	9,374,156	3,787,793	13,797,397
1876	368,464	9,102,099	3,590,849	13,061,412
1877	663,552	8,880,570	3,913,778	13,457,900
1878	609,121	9,016,558	3,508,726	13,134,405
1879	....	10,079,317	3,052,614	13,131,931
1880	....	12,007,931	3,674,871	15,682,802
1881	710,412	11,244,865	4,352,528	16,307,805
1882	566,516	12,623,435	4,487,404	17,677,355
1883	502,517	15,625,835	4,133,921	20,262,273
1884	73,593	13,989,634	4,514,063	18,577,290
1885	71,539	11,987,741	4,690,827	16,750,107
1886	24,918	11,558,311	4,134,708	15,717,937
1887	34,184	14,206,128	4,281,438	18,521,750
1888	165,540	15,516,852	5,237,738	20,920,130
1889	321,731	17,378,662	5,594,541	23,294,934
1890	137,169	17,095,556	4,813,212	22,045,937
1891	1,296,093	19,789,619	4,858,308	25,944,020
1892	11,486	17,695,616	4,265,145	21,972,247
1893	25,885	17,068,328	5,827,010	22,921,223
1894	325,302	15,579,659	4,672,712	20,577,673
1895	1,063,558	15,372,652	5,498,575	21,934,785
1896	1,699,549	15,043,142	6,267,658	23,010,349

The value of New South Wales produce exported during 1891 has exceeded that of any other year. As already shown, a portion of

ould have been transacted in the previous year if the maritime
ad not occurred; but, after allowing freely for the increase due
circumstance, the value would still have been the largest in the
f the colony. The table just given shows a notable rise in the
domestic produce exported during 1889, which was well sustained
93. This may be attributed in the first place to a fortunate
n of good seasons, and in the second to the production of silver,
ecame an important article of export in the year named. The
crease in 1894 is fully accounted for by the fall in prices, the
on preventing such increased production as would have had the
sustaining the total export value. In 1895 and 1896, how-
ere was a further slight fall, although the average price of the
ities produced in the colony was higher than in 1894.

presentation of the figures relating to the export trade, it will
that the value of commodities has been separated from that of
export of gold the produce of the colony being taken to be the
f the total export of coin over the total import of coin and
Where there was no such excess the whole of the gold exported
n classed as other than domestic produce. Below will be found
e of the trade per inhabitant, the subdivision being the same as
pted for the previous table :—

	Domestic produce exported.		Other produce exported, including gold.	Total Exports.
	Gold.	Commodities.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	2 7 2	11 6 7	6 4 6	19 18 3
	3 12 1	14 2 7	5 14 2	23 8 10
	1 0 6	14 18 0	6 3 0	22 1 6
	1 1 9	16 0 8	6 9 7	23 12 0
	0 12 3	15 1 3	5 18 10	21 12 4
	1 1 1	14 2 5	6 4 6	21 8 0
	0 18 6	13 14 2	5 6 8	19 19 4
	…………	14 11 10	4 8 5	19 0 3
	…………	16 9 7	5 0 10	21 10 5
	0 18 7	14 13 11	5 13 10	21 6 4
	0 14 2	15 16 2	5 12 5	22 2 9
	0 12 0	18 12 10	4 18 8	24 3 6
	0 1 8	15 16 10	5 2 2	21 0 8
	0 1 7	12 18 7	5 1 2	18 1 4
	0 0 6	11 18 6	4 5 3	16 4 3
	0 0 8	14 2 9	4 5 3	18 8 8
	0 3 2	14 19 8	5 1 2	20 4 0
	0 6 0	16 5 11	5 4 11	21 16 10
	0 2 6	15 10 4	4 7 4	20 0 2
	1 2 8	17 6 1	4 5 0	22 13 9
	0 0 2	14 19 7	3 12 2	18 11 11
	0 0 5	14 2 0	4 16 4	18 18 9
	0 5 3	12 11 10	3 15 6	16 12 7
	0 16 10	12 3 2	4 6 11	17 6 11
	1 6 5	11 13 7	4 17 4	17 17 4

Judged by the volume of its exports per inhabitant, New S Wales compares favourably with any other country whose com is at all considerable, as an export of from £16 to £24 can on paralleled by some few countries, such as Belgium, whose tra largely made up of re-exports. For the twenty-five years covered by foregoing statement the exports per inhabitant averaged £19 19s. falling as low as £16 4s. 3d. in 1886, and reaching £24 3s. 6d. in 1 Excluding, however, all but domestic produce, the average val commodities exported was £14 9s. 9d. per inhabitant, and inclu gold locally produced, £15 1s. 6d. If the prices of commodities remained constant from year to year, the value of domestic exports w have afforded a ready means by which the progress of productive enter might be gauged. Allusion has been made on several occasions in chapter to the fall in the prices of the great staple exports, and tak all commodities into consideration, the fall during the last twenty- years has been over 41 per cent., the most serious decline occurring i the year 1884. As the question of prices is reviewed at length elsew in the chapter on "Food Supply and Cost of Living," it will here su to give the price-level for various years which are there established:

Year.	Price-level. 1896 prices=1,000.	Year.	Price-level. 1896 prices=1,0
1872	1,706	1885	1,404
1873	1,808	1886	1,350
1874	1,792	1887	1,387
1875	1,787	1888	1,346
1876	1,692	1889	1,367
1877	1,552	1890	1,321
1878	1,545	1891	1,200
1879	1,604	1892	1,136
1880	1,574	1893	1,028
1881	1,562	1894	927
1882	1,613	1895	951
1883	1,613	1896	1,000
1884	1,599		

Applying the figures just given to the value of commoditi ascertained on page 123, and adding the value of locally-won l, the comparative value of domestic exports for each year is at, on the supposition that the prices of 1896 were obtained during le period. The results are as stated in the following table:—

.	Value per Inhabitant of Domestic Exports, including Gold, on the basis of 1896 prices.			Year.	Value per Inhabitant of Domestic Exports, including Gold, on the basis of 1896 prices.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
2	9	0	0	1885	9	5	8
3	11	8	4	1886	8	17	2
4	9	6	9	1887	10	4	6
5	10	1	2	1888	11	5	10
6	9	10	3	1889	12	4	5
7	10	3	1	1890	11	17	5
8	9	16	0	1891	15	11	1
9	9	2	0	1892	13	3	11
0	10	9	5	1893	13	14	9
1	10	6	9	1894	13	16	11
2	10	10	2	1895	13	12	5
3	12	3	2	1896	13	0	0
4	9	19	10				

he whole period the average exports per inhabitant, computed prices, amounted to £12 2s. 2d. For the first period of five e average was £11 11s. 2d.; for the second five years, £10 11s. : the third five years, £10 7s. 7d.; for the fourth five years, s. 5d.; and for the last five years £13 19s. 8d. These figures but be looked upon as highly satisfactory, and afford ample that the most productive period in the colony's history was the rs that closed with 1896.

INCREASE OF PRODUCTION.

r the present conditions of development of the colony, the export stic produce is a very fair indication of its progress in productive . In the following table the average export of domestic produce am is given for the period which elapsed between 1870 and the 1896; but in order that they may be more easily grasped, as to avoid the irregularities of individual years, the figures have ouped in series of five years. Besides the export of domestic , the table shows the average sum paid as interest on loans raised and, and as earnings of investments held by non-residents. The e between the two sets of figures represents the amount available for the purchase of goods, which come to the colony as imports. bearing of the last two columns will presently appear :—

Period.	Average Exports of Domestic Produce per annum.	Average sum paid per annum as Interest on Loans raised in England and as Earnings of Investments held by non-residents.	Excess of Exp Domestic Produ Interest on Loa Earnings of Inve by non-reside
	£	£	£
1870-74	7,874,800	1,806,800	6,068,00
1875-79	9,745,900	1,883,400	7,862,50
1880-84	13,468,900	2,289,000	11,179,90
1885-89	14,253,100	3,838,000	10,415,10
1890-94	17,804,900	5,163,900	12,641,00
1895-96	16,589,500	4,856,000	11,733,50

With the exception of the two years 1895–96, the figures just show a continuous increase in the exports from period to perio withstanding the great fall in prices which has taken place. A this it may be urged that there has been an increase in population, order that the comparison may be exactly on the same lines the fol table has been compiled. The figures show the export of do produce per head, as well as the average sum paid as interest on raised in England and as earnings of investments held by non-res the excess of domestic exports over interest on loans and earn absentee capital, and the last figures reduced to the level of 18 prices :—

Period.	Average Exports of Domestic Produce per annum.	Average sum paid per annum as Interest on Loans raised in England and Earnings of Investments held by non-residents.	Excess of Exports of Domestic Produce over Interest on Loans and Earnings of Investments held by non-residents.	Excess of reduced to mon level pric
	£	£	£	£
1870-74	15·0	3·5	11·5	11
1875-79	15·4	3·0	12·4	13
1880-84	16·8	2·7	14·1	15
1885-89	14·2	3·8	10·4	13
1890-94	15·2	4·4	10·8	16
1895-96	13·0	3·8	9·2	16

It will be seen that although during the twenty-seven years by the tables the annual export of domestic produce has rise £7,874,800 to £16,589,500, in value per head of population it less in 1895-96 than during the period extending from 1870 to 187 average sum paid by the colony to its outside creditors has in from £1,806,800 to £4,856,000 per year, or from £3·5 to £3·8 p The surplus available to pay for imports has risen from £6,068 £11,733,500. Presented as the average per inhabitant, the lecrease from £11·5 to £9·2; but when stated in terms of the tained in 1870–74, the excess of exports per head shows an of more than 42 per cent.—that is to say, from £11·5 to £16·4

be gathered from the foregoing figures that in spite of the large asing amount which the colony owes to its outside creditors, great fall in prices, the export of domestic produce available to imports shows but little decline, while if prices had remained y during the whole period there would have been an increase e last two years as compared with the first five years of £4·9 per The natural satisfaction to which the figures give rise extends to period with the exception of the five years from 1885 to 1889. teresting question has been raised as to the effect of the import h capital on the productive enterprises of the country. The vailable in regard to production do not enable a comparison to for the whole period from 1870 to the present time, but making e export figures already quoted, and those given in the part ork relating to "Private Finance," the following comparison is :—

	Average Export of Domestic Produce per annum.			Average Import of Capital per annum.	
	Total.	Per inhabitant.		Total.	Per inhabitant.
		At actual prices	At 1870-74 prices.		
	£	£	£	£	£
4	7,874,800	15·0	15·0	921,200	1·8
9	9,745,900	15·4	16·4	2,966,200	4·7
4	13,468,900	16·8	18·4	4,170,800	5·0
9	14,253,100	14·2	18·0	6,482,400	6·5
4	17,804,900	15·2	23·6	2,981,800	2·5
6	16,589,500	13·0	23·2	*44,000	*0·03

* Net export of capital.

erage value of domestic exports, when reduced to the compara- s of 1870–74 prices, shows £23·2 per head in 1895–96 as against e of £15 in 1870–74, being an increase of more than 54 per cent. years which ended with 1879 show an average export of £15·4 l, which is equal to £16·4 on the 1870–74 prices; the five ding with 1884 show £16·8 per head, equal to £18·4 on the prices; the five years ending in 1889 show £14·2 per head, £18 on the same basis; while the five years which ended with w £15·2 per head, equal to £23·6 on the 1870–74 prices. In two columns of the table just given will be found the average f capital during each series, and it would seem that during the which closed with 1889 an average of £6,482,400 was imported ch year—that is to say, about £6·5 per head. The deduction awn from the foregoing figures is that the years in which an undue importation of capital took place compare unfavourably as r production with other years in which there was a more moderate i the lowest point of production being reached in the years wh largest amount of British capital was brought to the country, an highest during those years in which a very much reduced amo capital reached these shores.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

Wool is the staple export of the colony, and comprises conside more than half the value of the domestic exports. The quantitie values of the wool exported since 1870 are given in the next tabl from the figures it will readily be seen how greatly the colony de for its prosperity upon the produce of its flocks. The weights represent the actual exports of New South Wales wool, washed greasy being taken together :—

Year.	Weight.	Value.	Year.	Weight.	Val
	lb.	£		lb.	£
1870	47,440,610	2,741,141	1890	236,322,828	8,991
1875	87,534,280	5,651,643	1891	331,887,720	11,036
1880	154,871,832	8,040,625	1892	312,225,293	10,211
1885	168,151,659	7,246,642	1893	318,782,858	9,675
1886	173,985,640	7,028,596	1894	331,774,424	9,011
1887	216,450,342	8,911,155	1895	297,448,104	8,958
1888	235,848,944	9,089,776	1896	272,033,262	8,776
1889	261,853,484	10,620,636			

Besides the clip of the colony, there has been a large export of wool, chiefly the produce of Queensland. In 1885 the export of fo wool amounted to slightly more than 10,000,000 lb. weight, valu £429,399 ; but the returns for the next six years showed a great dec on these figures. In 1892 the export again exceeded 10,000,0 in weight ; while in 1896 it amounted to 34,791,096 lb., valu £1,120,803. The exports as returned by the Customs are given here but the quantities fall short of the actual amounts, as not a little the produce of other places, was exported in past years as New Wales wool on the same principle, probably, that led to the shipm 1896 from Melbourne, as the produce of Victoria, of over 53,000,0 weight of wool, the bulk of which was grown in New South Wal

Year	Weight.	Value.	Year.	Weight.	Val
	lb.	£		lb.	£
1880	7,614,490	431,605	1891	8,803,662	276,
1885	10,221,766	429,399	1892	10,826,721	328,
1886	4,664,971	173,380	1893	26,200,018	774,
1887	7,844,867	288,916	1894	22,391,022	616,
1888	7,407,309	268,739	1895	32,544,571	1,017,
1889	4,375,545	164,434	1896	34,791,096	1,120,
1890	7,415,438	241,276			

port of domestic wool in 1891, both as regards value and was the highest ever attained, the increase over the previous g 95,564,892 lb., valued at £2,044,622. A large portion of nce, however, was not due to increased production, but to the nce that in 1890 the growers were unable to get part of their o market by reason of the general strike to which reference ly been made. Considered in this light, the decrease in 1892, red with 1891, of 19,662,427 lb., of the value of £824,562, is arent than real. In 1894, however, the domestic export nearly he quantity shipped in 1891, being only 113,296 lb., less; but king illustration of the fall in prices to find the value £2,024,228 in that year. During the next two years the seasons were unpro- nd the export fell to 297,448,104 lb. in 1895 and 272,033,262 lb. There was, however, a slight rise in the price during these years, alues were, therefore, not reduced to a corresponding extent.

ked feature of the wool trade of recent years has been the disposition shown by buyers on the Continent of Europe to their supplies direct from the colony instead of obtaining them the London brokers. Year by year the representatives of anufacturers who visit Sydney for the purpose of attending the become more numerous. Seventeen years ago all the wool for Europe may be said to have found its way to London, while he shipments to Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy of the local growth amounted to 73,175,615 lb., valued at £2,372,729. th of a direct trade with the Continent is desirable, both in est of the foreign consumer and in that of the grower, as of the middleman, as well as the cost of additional carriage lling, is thereby saved. The following table shows the steady n the quantity of domestic wool shipped direct to the Continent e past twelve years:—

Year.	Quantity.		Value.
	Weight.	Proportion of Total Domestic Export.	
	lb.	per cent.	£
1885	14,734,724	8·8	486,693
1886	17,307,973	9·9	537,472
1887	22,009,275	10·2	715,084
1888	29,023,106	12·2	906,526
1889	35,933,721	13·7	1,285,494
1890	42,300,222	17·9	1,509,686
1891	64,207,855	19·3	1,838,740
1892	85,334,191	27·3	2,568,685
1893	88,858,560	27·9	2,629,322
1894	98,316,430	29·7	2,627,658
1895	01,320,974	30·7	2,688,846
1896	73,175,615	26·9	2,372,729

There was formerly a disposition to export washed wool. The tend is now, however, towards the export of wool in grease, except wher conditions as to carriage, etc., are exceptional. Further reference to wool trade will be found in the chapter relating to pastoral pursuits

The other animal products—tallow, skins, leather, and such li form together an export of considerable value, the shipments of ta especially having largely increased during the past few years.

The number and value of the live stock exported have varied siderably from year to year, being affected greatly by the sea experienced both in this colony and in the neighbouring provi The export of horses has increased both in number and in value ; and same may be said of the imports, though it should be borne in m that the figures in respect to horses are to some extent misleading, as number of thoroughbred racing animals passing backwards and forw between Sydney and Melbourne, which are entered as exports and imp gives more importance to the trade than its magnitude really warra

In 1896 the export of horned cattle declared to be the produce of South Wales amounted to 29,448 head, valued at £152,128, and import to 268,428, valued at £564,588. The export of sheep during year was 726,400, worth £242,283 ; and the import reached 1,010 in number, and in value, £317,909. But, as in the case of horses, figures for the export and import of other live stock are to a ce extent misleading, inasmuch as the returns are swollen by the incl of stock sent from one colony to another in the hope of obtaining b pasturage, or for fattening or breeding purposes. The general tend of the trade in 1896 may, however, be gathered from the table b the export figures comprising both home-reared and other stock :—

Live stock.	Imported.		Exported.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£		£
Horses	6,918	82,990	8,212	127,083
Horned cattle	268,428	564,588	45,720	222,697
Sheep	1,010,176	317,909	744,578	258,952
Pigs	7,291	9,242	1,997	2,311
Other stock	......	6,162	....	1,705
Total	....	980,891	....	612,748

Coal also forms one of the staple exports of New South Wales, h been exported to the value of £990,264 in 1896, representing a v of 2,474,907 tons. The development of the coal trade of the colon be found traced in the chapter on "Mines and Minerals," and it w seen that this product has been subject to less fluctuation than any item of export.

The export of silver and silver-lead ore has become important 1884, the figures for 1893 amounting to £3,031,720, although, in ence of the great fall in the price of the metal, coincident with the sing of the Indian mints to free coinage, the export declined to 289,489 in 1894; while in 1895, owing to a lengthy stoppage of rk at the principal silver mine, the export declined still further to ,648,103. In 1896, however, there was increased activity at some the mines, and the export reached a value of £1,785,451. The port of locally-produced copper and tin revived somewhat during 88, but has fallen off very considerably since. Copper was exported 1896 to the value of £200,311, and tin to the extent of £102,117. ese figures are taken from the returns of the Customs department, t the amounts are swollen by ore from other Australasian colonies, rticularly from Queensland and South Australia, sent to be refined in w South Wales. The actual local production of copper and tin ring 1896 may be set down at £197,814 and £68,546 respectively. he production of the former metal is again on the increase.

Gold bullion and specie form one of the most important exports of the lony. The export during 1870 and subsequent periods was:—

Year.	£	Year.	£
1870	1,824,524	1890	2,289,022
1875	2,106,074	1891	3,732,894
1880	863,012	1892	2,263,661
1885	1,461,478	1893	2,995,777
1886	1,619,278	1894	2,308,264
1887	1,318,917	1895	3,145,557
1888	2,122,337	1896	3,886,490
1889	3,211,747		

Taken by itself, the foregoing statement might seem to favour the pinion sometimes hazarded that the colony is being denuded of its ld. Such, however, is not the case. The gold shipped is chiefly the oduce of other colonies, sent to Sydney to be minted. The amount f gold raised in the colony during 1896 was valued at £1,073,360, hile the domestic bullion and specie exported is estimated at 1,699,549. This, however, was an exceptional year; usually only a mited quantity of the amount exported is of local production.

Divided into the classes adopted for the imports, the exports of home oduce in 1896 appear as follow:—

	£
Food and beverages, including breadstuffs	1,130,585
Wines, fermented and spirituous liquors	8,221
Live stock	521,857
Animal and vegetable products, including wool	10,009,791
Clothing and textile fabrics	37,111
Minerals and metals, raw or partly worked up, including silver bullion, lead, and ore	2,279,735
Coal and coke	905,244
Specie and gold bullion	1,699,549
Articles of education, art, and amusement	16,318
Manufactured articles not included elsewhere	110,947
Unclassified articles	23,333
Total	£16,742,691

By far the larger portion of the exports consists of raw materi As an export manufacturing country New South Wales has not achieved any position; and though its manufactures are not with their importance, as will hereafter appear, its own markets furnish wide a scope for manufacturing industry as to make it improbable t there will be any great development of export trade in home manufactu in the immediate future. So many channels have been presented the successful employment of capital that little attention has b bestowed upon the possibility of New South Wales supplying ot countries with its own manufactures; but as these outlets of cap are closed, the vast possibilities of the country in other directions doubtless be recognised. The following table has been prepared w the view of showing the relative importance, and the value head of population, of the principal articles exported during the last years. The preponderance of raw material, and raw material advan one stage towards the finished manufacture, will be apparent:—

Article.	1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Butter	1	3	2	1	2	5	0	11	1	7
Coal and coke	17	5	13	7	13	2	12	4	14	0
Copper	3	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	3	1
Fruit (Green)	1	10	2	3	1	8	1	1	1	7
Grain, pulse, etc.—										
Wheat	......		......		......		......		1	1
Maize	0	1	.....		......		0	1	0	1
Flour	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	3	0
Leather	3	0	3	3	3	9	4	5	5	1
Live stock—										
Cattle	2	11	3	3	1	9	1	10	2	4
Horses	3	4	1	8	1	6	1	6	1	11
Sheep	8	4	4	9	4	9	4	6	3	9
Meat	4	10	5	2	6	10	11	2	9	4
Shale (kerosene)	2	2	1	4	0	10	1	3	0	6
Silver bullion, lead, and ore	41	10	50	1	36	8	26	1	27	9
Skins and hides	11	8	10	2	6	7	9	8	5	[illegible]
Tallow	7	4	12	3	14	5	12	3	5	[illegible]
Timber (dressed and rough)	0	10	0	7	0	5	0	8	0	[illegible]
Tin	5	4	3	9	3	0	2	2	1	[illegible]
Wool	172	0	159	10	145	8	141	8	136	[illegible]

The total values of some of the principal articles of home produce
xported during 1896 are as follow :—

	£		£
Butter	102,502	Meat	600,785
Coal and coke	904,787	Shale, Kerosene	32,846
Copper (net export)	197,814	Silver and ore	1,785,451
Flour	196,335	Skins	339,474
Fruit	100,092	Tallow	353,566
Grain and pulse	102,829	Timber	46,091
Leather	324,989	Tin (net export)	68,546
Live stock	521,857	Wool	8,776,529

RE-EXPORT TRADE.

The re-export trade of the colony increased considerably until 1889,
t during the next few years a marked decline was experienced. In
95 and 1896, however, an improvement was manifested, and the latter
ar showed a large increase on the previously highest total. The ship-
ing facilities of Sydney at one time attracted to the port a large
nount of trade from New Zealand, Queensland, and the South Seas,
r transhipment to Europe ; but the establishment of direct communi-
tion between those colonies and Europe checked to some extent the
xpansion of the re-export trade. The re-export trade overland is com-
aratively limited, amounting in 1896 to £237,117, out of a total of
6,267,658.

The total value of the re-exports of the colony, and the value of the
old bullion and specie included therein, during the periods mentioned,
ere as shown below. It will be seen that gold, consisting largely of
Queensland metal coined at the Mint, and of specie shipped to London
y the banks, forms a large proportion of the trade :—

Year.	Re-exports.			Gold Bullion and Specie included in the foregoing.
	Seaward.	Overland.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1870	2,886,267	8,210	2,894,477	1,491,893
1875	3,783,785	4,008	3,787,793	1,459,057
1880	3,626,991	47,880	3,674,871	838,115
1885	4,525,883	164,944	4,690,827	1,448,534
1886	3,999,328	135,380	4,134,708	1,588,756
1887	4,120,184	161,254	4,281,438	1,278,162
1888	4,684,752	552,986	5,237,738	1,944,327
1889	5,222,288	372,253	5,594,541	2,880,883
1890	4,626,606	186,606	4,813,212	2,289,022
1891	4,567,759	290,549	4,858,308	2,436,801
1892	4,145,912	119,233	4,265,145	2,263,661
1893	5,191,249	635,761	5,827,010	2,969,892
1894	4,518,505	154,207	4,672,712	1,982,962
1895	5,047,623	450,952	5,498,575	2,081,999
1896	6,030,541	237,117	6,267,658	2,186,941

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of o than domestic produce and manufacture exported during 1896 :—

	£		£
Apparel, Wearing	39,211	Iron and steel (*continued*)—	
Bags and sacks	38,789	Galvanised sheets and bars	54,
Beer and ale	21,025	Leather	13,
Boots and shoes	39,618	Live stock	90,
Copper	4,788	Machinery	126,
Copra	66,198	Meats	52,
Drapery	243,120	Paper, books, etc.	40,
Drugs, chemicals, etc.	56,065	Skins and hides	298,
Flour	46,852	Spirits	46,
Fruit, Fresh and dried	47,072	Sugar	72,
Furniture and upholstery	15,161	Tallow	156,
Gold specie and bullion	2,186,941	Tea	75,
Hardware	48,564	Tin	53,
Iron and steel—		Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	70,
Manufactured wrought	33,432	Wool	1,120,
Wire—black and galvanised	18,616		

Amongst raw materials the principal articles re-exported are ta skins and hides, copra, tin, and wool; while the manufactured arti are chiefly drapery, apparel, hardware, iron and steel, machinery, d and chemicals, books and stationery, boots, beer and spirits, toba cigars and cigarettes, and also large quantities of provisions. Grou under the several heads already adopted for the imports and expo the value of the re-export trade for the year 1896 will be found below:

	£
Food and beverages, including breadstuffs	492,510
Wines, fermented and spirituous liquors	83,530
Live stock	90,891
Animal and vegetable products, including wool	1,892,162
Clothing and textile fabrics	386,142
Minerals and metals, raw or partly worked up, including silver bullion, lead, and ore	445,241
Specie and gold bullion	2,201,188
Articles of education, art, and amusement	151,141
Manufactured articles not elsewhere included	393,832
Articles unclassified by Customs	131,021
Total	£6,267,658

OVERLAND TRADE.

As the major portion of the goods exported overland simply p through the border colonies of Victoria and South Australia to G Britain, the diversion of the trade along the railways of the colon to its ports must be looked upon as a distinct gain. It was believed t the extension of the trunk railways to the centres of the pastoral indu would have the effect of permanently diverting a not inconsider amount of trade from Victoria and South Australia, but it will be from figures in another part of this volume that such diversion has been partial. The condition of the Darling and other western ri exercises a marked influence on the overland trade, especially in w found that when the rivers are not easily navigable a larger n of this staple reaches the eastern seaboard than is the case easons. A marked increase in the total trade will be noticed in the following years, and in 1891 the value of the trade was n twofold that of the year first mentioned; but there was falling off in 1892, mainly owing to the strike at Broken decline in the total value of imports and exports at the Wil- ustom House alone amounting to no less than £1,988,961. in no small degree due to the diminished requirements of the n of the Broken Hill silver-fields, whose natural outlet is by delaide, which is connected by rail with Broken Hill. The ival in the overland trade in 1893 was due to the greater im- exports of gold in consequence of the financial crisis; while e in the exports in 1894 and 1895 was chiefly caused by the in the price of silver in 1894, and by a fire in the workings of pal mine in 1895, which adversely affected the industry in the istrict; and in the imports, to a number of causes, amongst re a smaller import of live stock from Queensland and the still ontraction of the goods introduced for consumption at Broken 1896 the imports overland were in excess of those of the four years, the largest increase being in the imports from Victoria, t £525,000, of which £290,000 represents specie and the rest ous articles. Imports overland from Queensland show an f £430,000, due entirely to live stock; and from South Aus- £380,000, due to a revival in the Barrier trade. While the rts overland in 1896 remained at nearly the same figure as in exports to Victoria showed an increase of £85,000, and those Australia of £225,000, while the exports to Queensland by £290,000, owing to the absence of large consignments of which were made during the preceding year.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1870	1,071,087	2,177,813	3,248,900
1875	1,460,528	4,343,729	5,804,257
1880	1,438,155	4,768,542	6,206,697
1885	2,611,130	3,405,073	6,016,203
1886	2,039,168	4,251,800	6,290,968
1887	3,166,573	5,231,454	8,398,027
1888	3,040,010	5,559,681	8,599,691
1889	3,150,698	6,919,491	10,070,189
1890	4,707,341	8,026,376	12,733,717
1891	4,319,204	8,630,248	12,949,452
1892	2,928,417	6,034,211	8,962,628
1893	2,698,011	6,706,936	9,404,947
1894	1,788,654	5,222,089	7,010,743
1895	1,783,368	4,748,129	6,531,497
1896	3,125,671	4,769,738	7,895,409

TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The trade with the United Kingdom holds a high position in re
to value, being until recent years even larger than the intercol
trade of the colony: and even now, if to the value of goods co
direct from Great Britain were added that of goods passing thr
the neighbouring colonies, but destined for or coming from Engl
the proportion of British trade would still be higher; for, though
nominal trade between the United Kingdom and New South W
amounted in 1896 to the large sum of £15,565,998 out of a total t
of £43,571,859, it is probable that the actual value of this trade
little short of £20,000,000. The amount of trade, as set down i
subsequent table, is, therefore, much below the truth, especially in re
to the exports, as the larger part of the produce exported to Vic
and South Australia overland is in reality destined for British p
The seaward trade alone can be given, and this will be found i
following table, for 1870 and subsequent periods:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total British trade.
	£	£	£
1870	3,200,706	2,492,640	5,693,346
1875	6,062,226	6,374,503	12,436,729
1880	6,536,661	7,525,637	14,062,298
1885	11,885,597	7,293,133	19,178,730
1890	8,628,007	6,623,431	15,251,438
1891	10,580,230	8,855,465	19,435,695
1892	8,883,983	7,653,915	16,537,898
1893	7,218,124	8,269,507	15,487,631
1894	5,983,489	7,956,377	13,939,866
1895	6,420,107	9,371,418	15,791,525
1896	7,190,115	8,375,883	15,565,998

INTERCOLONIAL TRADE.

Even more considerable than the British trade in most
apparently stands the intercolonial, exceeding it in 1896 by no les
£2,368,688, the amount being £17,934,686. By far the larger p
this trade, however, must be credited to the United Kingdom,
natural outlet for the produce of the Southern and Western distr
by way of Victoria and South Australia. Thus, out of £9,5
imported by New South Wales during 1896 from the Austra
colonies, goods to the value of £5,262,000 only, excluding gold
the produce of the places from which they were received, and out

,826 exports only £1,745,000 were retained for local consumption colonies to which they were sent. The nominal value of the lonial trade since 1870 was as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
	£	£	£
1870	3,677,927	3,837,680	7,515,607
1875	5,878,751	6,570,127	12,448,878
1880	5,945,788	7,381,172	13,326,960
1885	8,595,429	6,936,139	15,531,568
1890	10,981,721	11,284,740	22,266,461
1891	11,127,178	11,603,170	22,730,348
1892	9,201,193	8,917,677	18,118,870
1893	8,895,787	9,881,038	18,776,825
1894	7,794,168	8,243,954	16,038,122
1895	7,321,668	7,590,985	14,912,653
1896	9,559,860	8,374,826	17,934,686

total intercolonial trade of the Australasian colonies with New Wales increased largely from 1885 to 1891, due almost entirely trade which sprang up with the working of the Barrier silver

The province of South Australia lies between the western t of New South Wales and the sea, and practically the whole of ide of the Broken Hill district passes through that province, and the volume of commerce credited to it. It will be seen from llowing table, which distinguishes the seaward from the overland a, that the exchange of commodities between New South Wales e other colonies in 1896 was less than in any of the years 93 :—

Year.	Seaward.	Overland.	Total.
	£	£	£
1885	9,515,365	6,016,203	15,531,568
1886	9,500,481	6,290,966	15,791,447
1887	9,612,332	8,398,027	18,010,359
1888	10,100,491	8,599,691	18,700,182
1889	11,318,168	10,070,189	21,388,357
1890	9,532,744	12,733,717	22,266,461
1891	9,780,896	12,949,452	22,730,348
1892	9,156,242	8,962,628	18,118,870
1893	9,371,878	9,404,947	18,776,825
1894	9,027,379	7,010,743	16,038,122
1895	8,381,156	6,531,497	14,912,653
1896	10,039,277	7,895,409	17,934,686

lready pointed out, a great proportion of the intercolonial export especially that which is sent overland, represents produce of New Wales ultimately destined for European markets, though credited colony to which it is sent in the first instance. Similarly with the s, a large part of the trade comprises goods which have originally from Great Britain but have been purchased in the Melbourne and Adelaide markets, or are passing through those ports as bein nearest routes to their destination. It is estimated that the val goods the produce of New South Wales consumed in the v colonies was £1,745,000 in 1896, and the value of the produce o other colonies consumed in New South Wales, excluding coi bullion, was £5,262,000. If from the value of New South exports there be deducted £474,067, the apparent value of do live stock exported to the adjacent colonies, it will be seen th Australasian markets consume a very small quantity of the goo this colony.

VICTORIA.

Victoria came first amongst the colonies of the group, as regar trade with New South Wales, until 1893, since which year the d which has taken place in the value of the goods which it sends t colony has caused it to rank below Queensland. It is estimated that to the extension of the railway system of New South Wales int Riverine districts, nearly one-fourth of its territory, comprising so its richest portions, traded almost exclusively with Victoria. This t has now, to a great extent, been diverted along New South Wales to Sydney; and the trade of the colony with Victoria, instead o creasing with the settlement of those districts, is declining. The follo table shows the trade of the year 1870, and of subsequent perio to 1896:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1870	1,153,695	2,583,552	3,737,247
1875	2,066,156	4,269,770	6,335,926
1880	2,187,119	4,578,867	6,765,986
1885	3,309,696	3,450,796	6,760,492
1890	2,097,259	5,386,553	7,483,812
1891	2,818,935	5,443,663	8,262,598
1892	2,432,399	4,278,907	6,711,306
1893	2,020,421	3,620,302	5,640,723
1894	1,583,206	3,129,663	4,712,869
1895	1,499,592	3,078,017	4,577,609
1896	2,115,721	3,296,451	5,412,172

The import trade of the colony with Victoria covers a large ran articles, and in this respect differs from the export, which mainly prises three leading items of raw produce—wool, live stock, and Dividing the imports from Victoria into two classes, viz., Victoria other produce, the chief imports under the former class are agricu implements, butter, breadstuffs, fruit, oats, hay and other fodder vegetables; while under the second head come drapery and apparel, hardware, iron, machinery, stationery, tea, raw sugar, and v manufactured articles. Victorian produce, properly so called, chiefly to Sydney; the other articles are taken by the souther western portions of the colony, which have for many years look as a market whence such supplies are to be derived. The are the values of the principal items of import from Victoria e last five years :—

scription of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
al implements	34,980	43,853	12,907	13,716	44,218
acks	11,937	13,896	16,372	12,847	33,916
ood and bottle)	21,242	18,611	15,218	12,785	14,875
	1,386	745	711	584	1,036
shoes	17,271	12,111	10,459	12,249	27,446
	7,774	3,346	2,711	61,453	34,101
	3,878	4,351	3,120	1,885	3,535
	693	488	374	1,035	1,286
nd rope	3,697	3,130	3,695	4,568	7,126
	143,492	92,151	110,435	121,163	139,500
apothecaries' wares	14,934	12,786	10,440	11,497	18,905
re and china	4,919	5,681	5,400	2,889	5,151
	318,598	153,430	130,093	66,598	13,366
	19,959	14,062	14,254	17,905	29,429
	6,352	6,312	7,885	7,271	7,777
and upholstery	11,235	7,280	6,679	9,432	22,074
, bars, and dust)	78,608	354,219	144,199	33,033	443,374
pulse—					
	144,583	41,536	20,152	27,033	25,072
	8,867	17,001	3,992	2,099	3,801
	36,349	40,727	12,129	12,023	23,684
	46,151	44,746	24,187	28,961	31,706
haff	173,022	150,290	83,218	87,586	66,340
teel goods	92,287	53,061	40,361	40,388	60,516
jellies	2,340	1,256	1,408	1,083	2,783
	1,991	1,162	2,574	5,612	9,638
	4,162	8,068	1,449	878	465
	10,871	10,502	9,962	12,864	19,387
	246,350	160,461	165,475	128,741	126,965
	63,313	46,914	43,536	52,738	89,874
ops	33,155	35,820	18,848	29,534	22,046
struments	5,678	6,189	6,687	2,602	6,303
	15,561	14,651	12,195	11,461	13,099
tores	6,896	3,753	3,362	3,434	5,600
	20,308	18,018	16,942	13,208	22,548
ks, stationery, etc.	50,695	31,823	29,385	32,678	52,493
	42,549	38,985	18,042	23,399	18,258
nd harness	6,978	5,004	4,486	4,202	6,444
	7,604	8,619	8,290	7,082	9,871
	32,145	23,973	22,267	24,253	30,993
r)	61,408	49,672	86,793	59,269	63,064
	121,452	60,674	78,618	57,077	36,676
	24,920	13,741	13,335	19,034	20,896
igars, etc.	27,352	16,982	15,831	17,357	17,369
	5,521	4,319	614	978	629
(green) and onions	28,307	25,363	28,121	25,409	37,188
pparel	76,006	65,927	61,927	57,436	81,751
	6,182	3,593	3,484	4,805	3,661
	15,437	14,424	19,058	19,812	12,116

The chief export to Victoria is wool, forwarded to Melbourn shipment to London and other European ports. A large quantit this wool is shipped to Europe as the produce of Victoria, on acc of the fact that better prices are generally obtained for "Port Phil wool. The value of wool exported to Victoria during 1870 and quent periods was as follows:—

Year.	£	Year.	£
1870	1,057,457	1892	2,518,459
1875	2,253,184	1893	2,210,198
1880	3,224,289	1894	2,030,645
1885	1,868,019	1895	1,958,643
1890	2,521,898	1896	1,936,025
1891	2,779,963		

The decrease shown since 1880 is chiefly owing to the decline in market value of the staple, though it is also partly due to the extensi the railways, which has diverted much of the traffic from the old ro

Live stock of all kinds form a large portion of the export Victoria, though the imports, especially of sheep, have also valuable. Victoria has already reached the point where the dea for meat exceeds the cast of stock, and is, therefore, dependent the other colonies, especially New South Wales, for the supply of deficiency, the amount of which is little short of one-fourth of whole consumption. The sheep exported are almost entirely South Wales produce; the cattle, however, are generally bred Queensland, and fattened for market on runs in New South Wales.

Coal is next in importance as an export of this colony to Vict the value during 1896 being £250,622, which was far larger than value of the trade in this staple with any other country. The other article worthy of note is skins, which are sent to Victoria re-export. The following table shows the export trade during the five years :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	18
	£	£	£	£	:
Coal	394,591	314,000	252,200	256,137	25
Coin—gold	......	100,000	......	......	
Drapery	36,203	26,675	22,242	33,416	4
Fish (preserved)	4,038	908	1,742	3,232	
Fruit (fresh)	79,123	76,629	57,846	31,993	4
Kerosene shale	9,940	8,646	2,849	4 842	
Live stock	782,245	260,475	330,310	293.106	36
Machinery	9,315	13.474	16,335	13,092	3
Periodicals, books, paper, etc.	13,190	9,399	8,353	6.650	
Skins	90,398	175,378	115,378	104,536	10
Tea	47,674	6,909	6.628	11,916	1
Timber	34,597	27,465	16.597	16,172	
Wheat and other grain	6,997	2,553	1,071	9,434	
Wines	2,380	1,814	2,815	2,436	
Wool	2,518,459	2,210,198	2,030,643	1,958,643	1,9

icles comprised in the import trade are much more varied than ts, although in point of value the latter are 50 per cent. in the former.

two-thirds of the exports to Victoria, as well as over one-e imports, cross the border. The value of the imports over-vever, fell greatly, from the causes already specified, during l although an improvement has been shown in some years, the easing 73 per cent. during the period from 1885 and 1890, it been of a temporary nature, and the overland export trade is half of the value at which it stood in 1891. The value in subsequent periods was:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1870	448,308	1,811,848	2,260,156
1875	945,049	3,546,674	4,491,723
1880	963,620	3,824,310	4,787,930
1885	1,555,139	2,450,444	4,005,583
1890	986,527	4,237,004	5,223,531
1891	1,088,012	4,184,219	5,272,231
1892	907,283	2,960,171	3,867,454
1893	912,956	2,486,282	3,399,238
1894	598,736	2,148,962	2,747,698
1895	570,440	2,104,591	2,675,031
1896	1,105,435	2,190,385	3,295,820

QUEENSLAND.

ngst the colonies, Queensland now takes first rank in the value rade with New South Wales. The estimated amount of the and exports since 1870 is given hereunder. It is possible that es are somewhat understated, as there is a good deal of trade in hich does not come under the cognisance of the Customs officers. New South Wales and Queensland have a common boundary miles, the overland trade, except in live stock, is small.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1870	1,767,974	680,301	2,448,275
1875	2,521,312	1,238,226	3,759,538
1880	2,224,421	1,362,262	3,586,683
1885	2,913,588	2,174,266	5,087,854
1890	5,482,452	1,670,465	7,152,917
1891	4,303,520	1,063,780	5,367,300
1892	4,122,822	1,105,173	5,227,995
1893	4,746,152	1,599,898	6,346,050
1894	4,506,490	970,926	5,477,416
1895	4,011,776	1,416,257	5,428,033
1896	4,679,456	1,227,754	5,907,210

The imports from Queensland chiefly consist of gold, live stock, s wool, tallow, and hides. Large quantities of gold are sent from Qu land to be minted at Sydney, there being no Mint in the northern col The value of wool imported during 1896 was £1,001,001, being ent for re-export. Stock was imported to the value of £798,823, of w £523,408 represented cattle. The importation of cattle from Queen mainly depends on the suitability of the season for travelling s As shown in the subjoined table, the figures for 1896 are in excess of t for the previous four years :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	18
	£	£	£	£	
Boots and shoes	1,210	1,069	3,509	1,335	
Drapery, apparel, etc. ...	17,113	7,966	10,898	12,467	1
Fruit (fresh)	17,497	32,691	17,647	42,282	5
Gold (bars and dust)......	2,190,477	2,155,843	2,392,785	1,693,663	1,75
Live stock	615,449	752,813	396,253	333,646	79
Maize	8,677	885	1,214	127	
Oysters	10,856	7,416	2,360	2,910	
Skins	139,800	164,719	146,533	240,581	27
Sugar (raw)	325,982	377,307	460,378	341,034	33
Tallow.........	106,710	144,126	249,516	294,504	15
Wool	473,428	783,276	566,503	906,691	1,001
Tin (ingots and ore)	107,852	104,163	80,864	42,484	2

Most of the goods imported from Queensland are for re-export, of the total imported during 1896 goods to the value of £3,467,00 more than 71 per cent., were not retained in the colony for consumption. New South Wales is the chief external marke Queensland sugars and live stock, and there is a growing tra fruit and other sub-tropical products.

The exports have varied greatly in value from year to year causes similar to those affecting the imports ; they comprise a number of items, mainly, however, the produce of foreign cou

The values of the chief articles exported from New South Wales to Queensland have been as follow in the years named :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel (wearing)	22,028	17,063	16,151	18,912	12,003
Bags and sacks	7,095	12,218	17,382	16,232	15,323
Boots and shoes	10,485	8,223	6,278	15,534	15,526
Coal	11,317	9,640	6,438	9,580	9,745
Coin (gold)	201,020	841,700	305,000	580,200	85,000
Drapery	63,518	52,780	32,732	72,690	71,084
Flour	24,033	11,579	10,214	4,367	177,581
Fruit (fresh)	30,596	35,659	26,915	25,278	52,464
Hardware	26,063	19,341	15,264	15,433	18,056
Iron and steel	99,905	87,630	68,199	96,065	113,117
Leather	7,869	7,681	7,037	12,352	7,868
Live stock	174,376	125,666	79,707	99,784	93,237
Machinery	31,184	40,222	30,425	38,740	36,861
Paper, books, stationery, etc.	22,285	15,007	13,778	20,456	28,274
Potatoes	9,124	12,198	5,714	4,289	42,434
Tea	25,542	27,518	33,059	39,702	32,647
Tin (ingots, ore, and plates)	17,583	4,497	12,960	14,545	9,027
Tobacco, etc.	19,742	10,239	12,727	17,566	19,620
Wool	30,602	27,806	16,820	20,155	15,670

The export trade with Queensland has been rapidly falling away, but as this trade for the most part consisted of British goods re-exported, it was only to be expected that the opening of a direct trade with Europe would have this effect. The amount of border trade between the two colonies is shown in the following table. The fluctuation in the number, and consequently in the value, of stock imported and exported will account for the variation in the amounts :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1870	527,097	40,540	1892	879,716	243,971
1875	249,247	223,667	1893	904,186	546,757
1880	231,161	245,651	1894	556,585	166,486
1885	669,739	337,023	1895	592,126	507,244
1890	2,158,822	317,717	1896	1,020,830	216,961
1891	1,103,682	231,613			

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The trade with South Australia was at one time more variable than t with any other colony, depending, as it then did, on the state of Murray and Darling Rivers. After 1886, however, the element uncertainty was neutralised by the expansion of trade which was nd in the requirements of the population of Broken Hill silver fields. The additional trade has proved of enormous advanta South Australia, as the Barrier district of New South Wales, wit population of about 20,000 persons, may be looked upon as com cially a province of the neighbouring colony. The total imports exports for stated periods, commencing at 1870, were :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exp
	£	£		£	
1870	366,480	350,247	1892	1,461,815	2,9
1875	987,933	654,232	1893	1,007,280	3,8
1880	690,407	830,256	1894	854,190	3,1
1885	890,335	810,953	1895	911,170	2,3
1890	2,036,492	3,700,124	1896	1,436,927	2,7
1891	2,746,788	4,527,989			

The list of imports is a long one, and like that of Victoria inclu large number of articles of foreign manufacture :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	18
	£	£	£	£	
Bags and sacks	3,259	2,876	2,476	6,788	7,
Beer	18,730	13,565	7,724	8,709	12
Boots and shoes	5,739	4,615	3,316	3,730	7,
Butter	20,785	13,609	11,402	25,610	25
Candles	7,390	8,393	6,108	6,033	10,
Cement	2,278	336	1,038	340	1,
Coke and coal	171,726	64,644	36,728	26,681	135,
Copper (ore and ingots)	101,641	20,368	17,530	11,892	1,
Drapery, wearing apparel, etc.	58,276	57,346	42,894	57,676	80
Drugs and apothecaries' ware	5,931	4,570	4,133	4,451	5
Dynamite, powder, arms, etc.	23,378	30,791	27,984	20,087	28
Eggs	25,034	22,308	16,360	15,570	12
Flour	169,727	66,550	83,242	77,487	180
Fruit (fresh)	18,817	17,505	11,783	13,350	19
" (dried)	4,991	5,703	4,432	4,527	4
Furniture and upholstery	2,325	1,504	2,214	1,444	3
Gold (coin, bars, and dust)	83,053	126,056	21,772	37,027	46
Grain and pulse —					
Wheat	5,909	2,618	7,041	31,232	43
Other	28,176	15,006	13,194	19,190	21
Hardware	20,573	14,808	5,731	6,708	11
Hats and caps	4,971	3,445	2,752	2,977	
Hay and chaff	52,077	14,434	24,023	77,204	12
Iron and steel	86,504	49,811	27,848	23,871	3
Jams and jellies	7,345	5,035	2,864	2,110	
Live stock	22,889	16,678	8,276	22,680	2
Machinery	30,869	19,401	19,583	24,582	5
Milk (condensed & preserved)	9,101	8,018	5,940	5,672	
Oils in bulk	7,220	8,050	7,032	6,931	1
Paper, books, stationery, etc.	9,521	5,972	4,681	4,664	
Potatoes	9,559	11,115	9,234	7,299	1

on of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
ides	15,634	3,911	6,408	11,117	15,637
	23,640	18,139	14,707	13,072	16,746
	39,589	40,175	35,974	26,255	29,373
	13,928	14,876	13,766	10,646	11,262
	156,973	127,069	108,793	80,715	92,531
gars, etc.	11,340	10,558	9,390	9,644	10,708
ncy goods	3,015	3,541	2,752	3,751	5,361
(not including	12,516	11,940	10,315	7,639	11,693
	5,716	2,975	1,891	2,182	2,711

orts to South Australia are chiefly silver bullion, lead, and ore, The values of the principal items for the last five years are —

tion of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
hoes	5,894	3,176	2,391	2,041	13,962
	62,869	62,858	63,418	51,947	106,445
	14,000	59,000	445,000	19,000	64,100
	232	3,813	10,033	6,701	1,088
	58,717	112,335	90,094	71,064	54,568
	9,762	16,352	6,279	10,113	14,274
s, & stationery	1,856	2,516	3,617	2,798	4,437
s, lead, and ore)	2,354,938	2,988,018	2,254,864	1,605,774	1,744,174
	37,871	31,392	46,711	39,961	36,993
)	5,234	17,751	1,971	3,055	979
	361,817	489,092	488,835	388,240	511,233

cords of the overland trade were not kept with exactitude year 1877, but the time which has since elapsed is amply to illustrate the importance of the trade. The subjoined shows that since that year there has been a large expansion. ts and exports of 1877, taken together, amounted to £464,252, 91 they reached the very high figure of £6,341,926. In 1892 s fell to £3,971,487, but in 1893 they rose to £4,554,766, ll, however, to £2,757,096 in 1895, while in 1896 they increased £3,361,798. The expansion from 1886 to 1891 was due, as ointed out, to the requirements of the newly-found silver-fields South Australian border, and the main reason for the decline as to be found in the diminished silver production, and the tly lessened amount of imports into the Barrier district. The 1893 was owing to increased production at Broken Hill con- n the settlement of the industrial disputes which had affected industry in the previous year; but the great fall in the market he metal in 1894 brought the trade down to its 1892 level; age of work in one of the principal mines, in consequence of a fire, was responsible for a further fall in 1895. Increased activi the mines, together with a slight rise in the price of the metal, c the increase in 1896.

Most of the articles given in the foregoing list are sent to Australia for the purpose of re-export, and are not, in the true exports to that colony. It is not possible, however, to trace these to their ultimate destination, and, in accordance with the s adopted in most Customs statistics, the country which the good enter is credited as dealing directly with this colony. This re applies with equal force to Victoria. The imports from South Au *via* Silverton, Willyama or Broken Hill, and Wentworth on the Da amounted to £2,127,510 during 1891, but since that year they st declined, until in 1895 they were but £620,802 in value. In however, they were higher than in the previous three years. It is cipated that the extensions of the railway system of this colony t banks of the Darling at Bourke and Wilcannia will eventually dive a little of the traffic which has hitherto gone to Adelaide. The cert of speedy delivery, and the less amount of handling to which good be subjected, will probably more than compensate for the addi expense of delivery. The overland trade since 1877 is shown bel

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exp
	£	£		£	
1877	253,838	210,414	1890	1,561,992	3,471
1880	243,374	698,581	1891	2,127,510	4,214
1885	386,252	617,606	1892	1,141,418	2,83
1886	442,034	1,396,403	1893	880,869	3,67
1887	713,238	1,513,241	1894	633,333	2,90
1888	1,154,924	1,359,802	1895	620,802	2,13
1889	1,092,095	2,731,656	1896	999,406	2,3

TASMANIA.

The commercial intercourse of New South Wales with Tasm one time promised to develop into importance, but the total tra less in 1895 than in 1885. It will be seen that the imports still exceed the exports; and while the difference in the two branche trade was becoming less every year until 1891, the imports i were again fully three-and-a-half times the value of the exports:-

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Ex
	£	£		£	
1870	90,827	26,555	1892	453,597	22
1875	167,870	44,274	1893	356,622	20
1880	383,106	81,484	1894	342,522	18
1885	582,177	108,758	1895	303,270	15
1890	432,615	215,674	1896	597,706	1
1891	377,174	252,356			

e chief imports are tin in ingots and silver ore, entirely for purpose of re-export; green fruit, potatoes, and other agricultural nce. The principal articles of import worthy of note are as w:—

scription of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
....	17,652	16,775	16,959	16,884	17,748
(green)	93,661	56,358	69,856	64,192	115,084
....	12,241	11,502	14,621	12,319	13,542
and jellies	3,320	3,342	2,223	1,785	4,972
stock (sheep)	34,827	21,648	14,335	10,449	14,647
toes	63,210	81,525	65,330	78,108	149,346
r ore	37,017	24,637	51,769	9,885	132,273
r	3,405	1,259	243	3,374	9,895
er	7,017	5,434	3,583	4,321	3,144
ngots)	115,242	90,276	75,100	40,010	40,903

e export trade embraces a large number of articles, the most rtant being live stock, £6,881; raw sugar, £42,044; coal, £18,644; drapery and apparel, £8,870; together £76,439, out of total rts to the amount of £167,399. Most of the other articles are n manufactured, chiefly the produce of Great Britain.

NEW ZEALAND.

w Zealand gave promise at a former period of being one of the g customers of this colony; but from various causes both the rts and the exports fell away very considerably. The export trade mmodities shows but little sign of recovery, the large increase in alues of late years being due to shipments of gold coin; while the of the imports fluctuates with the character of the season in New Wales, a bad year being always attended with large importations ew Zealand wheat, oats, and other produce. The following table the imports and exports for a series of years:—

ar.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
70	298,951	197,025	1892	717,309	286,059
75	135,480	362,764	1893	756,433	533,262
80	460,735	525,174	1894	484,450	770,392
85	899,623	369,055	1895	563,528	486,173
90	932,073	294,113	1896	704,699	429,583
91	871,422	280,039			

The imports consist chiefly of gold bullion, timber, and agricu and dairy produce. The value of the principal articles is given with :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
	£	£	£	£
Butter	7,403	632	......	5,459
Cheese	997	582	484	3,033
Drapery, apparel, etc.	13,664	9,213	11,020	13,293
Flour	17,555	3,049	403	133
Fungus	4,109	4,884	1,777	812
Gold bars and dust	231,490	343,718	222,344	299,382
Grain and pulse—				
Wheat	38,224	31,080	28,351	......
Oats	119,541	124,475	60,191	60,491
Other	47,612	22,735	7,004	3,293
Gum	64	12	688	199
Live stock	3,696	9,850	44,612	29,902
Malt and hops	27,466	13,735	15,622	23,527
Meat (preserved)	3,059	1,062	195	600
(Bacon, etc.)	10,355	2,523	3,292	3,021
Oatmeal	27,389	4,177	2,248	1,851
Oysters	3,575	2,160	3,600	2,935
Phormium tenax	6,888	10,480	6,619	5,706
Potatoes	56,165	17,313	3,497	5,854
Timber	55,498	68,852	60,622	63,758

In 1883 direct steam communication was established between Zealand and Great Britain; this, together with the large falling the export of specie, will account for the contraction of the outward which took place between that year and 1892. The value of the prin articles exported to New Zealand during each of the past five years follows :—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
	£	£	£	£
Coal	72,450	68,433	60,767	50,347
Coin (gold)	25,000	225,000	445,000	140,018
Drapery and apparel	24,344	18,366	14,418	15,256
Fruit (fresh)	12,388	27,326	27,386	17,854
Manures	20,114	18,587	21,226	27,405
Paper, books, stationery, etc.	5,696	4,993	4,223	7,001
Sugar (raw)	366	19,435	42,961	9,921
Timber	8,349	7,603	10,437	10,521

OTHER BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

Besides the Australasian colonies and Great Britain, the only British possessions that have a trade with New South Wales at siderable are Hong Kong, India, and Fiji; although during the he trade with Ceylon and Canada has been steadily increasing. lue of the imports and exports of each of the three first-named s during 1875, and at subsequent periods, was as follows :—

r.	Hong Kong.		India.		Fiji.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
5	117,881	172,676	12,295	10,958	32,345	63,033
0	228,526	137,577	653	19,611	54,135	120,518
5	340,187	246,032	117,208	130,292	192,540	128,643
0	271,730	255,050	195,368	253,280	99,853	98,951
1	273,383	282,309	260,307	127,388	89,859	103,773
2	239,606	254,615	180,499	50,923	70,121	100,089
3	191,477	182,502	184,261	37,173	56,012	131,403
4	182,496	162,167	201,805	36,991	45,039	117,840
5	181,529	141,976	212,337	54,407	27,890	86,420
6	75,860	185,601	203,176	126,203	36,058	107,724

g Kong commercially is a port of China, and no inconsiderable of the trade of that Empire with New South Wales is transacted t port. The China trade is of a variable nature, the total of the trade for 1896 being £198,422, as against £212,392 in 1886; he trade *via* Hong Kong in 1896 was only £261,461 as against 90 ten years previously. The imports from Hong Kong during onsisted principally of opium valued at £8,171, tea at £5,420, £16,651, tobacco at £3,464, silks at £2,322, China oil at , flax and hemp at £9,325; flour, £3,424; sugar (raw), £10,779; ats and matting at £373. The export trade for the year chiefly ised the following items:—Coin to the amount of £135,225; 15,790; bêche-de-mer, £1,556; fungus, £4,936; lead, £16,322; d metal, £5,657.

Indian trade has grown up almost entirely since 1880, in which amounted to only £20,264, increasing to £422,137 in 1884. that period the trade has greatly fluctuated, owing largely to riable export of coin. During 1890, it reached a total of 48, the highest yet attained; but during the next three years it y declined, although in 1894 it showed an upward movement, the ement being maintained in 1895 and 1896, when the values were 44 and £329,379 respectively. Castor oil is an article very imported from India, the value of the oil received during 1896 £16,239. There is also a large trade in woolpacks, the importa- mounting to £53,031; and in bags and sacks, of which goods to ount of £59,466 were received. The only other articles imported 1896 in any quantity were mats and matting, £3,287; rice, ; and tea, £46,538. The outward trade with India in most is confined almost entirely to coin, coal, and copper. During

1896 the export of gold amounted to £67,127, the other pri articles exported being coal, £27,763; horses, £23,800; and sc wool, £5,012; the four items mentioned comprising a value of £12 out of a total export trade during 1896 of £126,203. The great f off noticeable since 1890 is due to the decline in the amount of gol and bullion exported. In that year the value of gold exporte £203,299, and in 1891 only £87,361, while in 1894 there was no e of gold, in 1895 an export of only £19,456, and in 1896 one of £67

The Fiji Island trade is valuable, but, like the trade with other co possessions, is rather unsteady. In 1875 the imports from these I were valued at £32,345, and the exports at £63,033, being a to £95,378; while in 1896 the imports were only £36,058 in value the exports had risen to £107,724, the total trade thus being £14 The imports were highest in 1885, when they were valued at £19 The exports reached their highest total in 1883, when they amount £248,380; from that time there was a steady decline until 1887, the lowest figure was reached. Since then the exports have grad recovered, and the figures for 1893 were the highest recorded number of years, but the trade declined in 1894 and 1895, recoveri a slight extent in 1896.

The rise of a trade with the Canadian Dominion and Ceylon m traced in the following table, which gives the imports and export 1875 and following periods:—

Period.	Canadian Dominion.		Ceylon.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1875	......	....	....	2,059
1880	17,530	....	....	1,781
1885	62,847	....	17,701	8,531
1890	18,784	10	43,702	4,080
1891	32,864	40	55,544	631
1892	10,655	37	50,725	8,975
1893	33,316	8,374	70,991	2,052
1894	52,740	14,523	81,146	2,822
1895	61,742	16,894	94,595	2,055
1896	83,810	11,555	113,352	6,785

For a number of years prior to 1893 there was a fair import tr timber with Canada, but the establishment of a direct line of st between Sydney and Vancouver in that year had the effect of inc the number of articles imported, and of laying the foundation export trade, which until that time was practically non-existent principal articles imported in 1893 were timber, £7,929; mac [illegible]; paper, books, etc., £4,823; fish, fresh, dried, and pres

; drapery and apparel, £9,366; bicycles, £16,460; flour, £14,558; at, £5,548—making a value of £76,029, out of a total of £83,810. ef article of export was skins and hides, to the value of £3,432; er principal items being tin in ingots, £3,160; preserved meat, ; butter, £437; and fruit, £1,238. These are small beginnings, trade may be expected to show a substantial increase during the w years.

te years there has been a marked tendency to substitute for teas the product of Ceylon and India, and it is entirely due to t that the import trade with the island has made the steady pro- own in the above table. In 1896 the tea imported from Ceylon ued at £100,899, out of a total of £113,352; the other principal being coffee, £6,467; fibre, £1,536; and oilmen's stores, The chief exports were coal, £4,084; horses, £250; frozen 1,408; leather, £156; and kerosene shale, £63.

RADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ITS POSSESSIONS.

hat extent the trade of the colony follows the British flag may ered from the following figures, which show not only the value trade of New South Wales with Great Britain and her depen- during the period since 1870, but also the proportion which de bears to the whole. A fairly steady proportionate decline rent in the exports since 1886, which was about the period irect trade with Continental Europe was established:—

	Imports from Great Britain and British Possessions.	Percentage of total imports.	Exports to Great Britain and British Possessions.	Percentage of total exports.
	£		£	
	6,924,098	83·59	7,687,148	95·72
	12,563,296	93·13	13,213,258	96·65
	13,021,783	91·85	15,210,314	97·00
	21,299,715	89·74	14,794,052	88·33
	19,153,071	89·86	14,250,570	90·66
	17,564,948	91·62	16,485,109	89·00
	19,034,772	89·66	18,508,498	88·47
	20,198,508	88·34	20,281,259	87·06
	20,273,053	89·64	18,582,372	84·29
	22,474,355	88·54	21,066,606	81·20
	18,662,883	89·83	17,053,145	77·61
	16,679,402	92·11	18,569,809	81·02
	14,386,013	91·04	16,506,202	80·21
	14,352,796	89·75	17,323,106	78·98
	17,375,139	84·50	17,271,037	75·06

FOREIGN TRADE.

otal value of the trade of the colony with countries other than der British dominion shows a large increase since 1886, as will from the subjoined table. The import trade is marked by

fluctuation ; but the export trade has been more regular, and sh
considerable increase during the past ten years, due to the esta
ment of direct trade with France, Belgium, and Germany. The
decline in the value of the imports in 1887 was chiefly due to a f
off in the United States trade, though a sensible decline also
place in the imports from other leading foreign countries. Th
ground was more than recovered in subsequent years ; and the
decline in 1893 and 1894, in the exports as well as the imports
due to causes which affected the whole trade of the colony, thoug
quite in the same degree as the commerce with foreign countries
1895 and 1896 the trade again showed an upward tendency,
increase being relatively greater than that in the trade with the U
Kingdom and British colonies and possessions :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exp
	£	£		£	£
1886	2,160,056	1,467,367	1892	2,113,643	4,919,
1887	1,606,369	2,036,641	1893	1,427,633	4,351,
1888	2,194,505	2,411,632	1894	1,415,928	3,961,
1889	2,664,549	3,013,675	1895	1,639,619	4,611,
1890	2,341,951	3,463,565	1896	3,186,371	5,73[illegible]
1891	2,909,042	4,877,414			

THE UNITED STATES.

At one time the United States was the largest foreign market o
[illegible] the value both of the imports and the exports far exceeding
[illegible] country ; but the direct shipments of wool to the Cont
Europe, which are steadily increasing, have placed it below F
and Germany, although large shipments of gold in some years
[illegible] to place it above these European countries. The import trad
[illegible] by a fairly uniform rate of increase until 1886, since which
[illegible] has greatly fluctuated. The export trade also shows
[illegible], and depends almost entirely on the demand for gold
[illegible] States. The peculiarity of the trade will, perha
[illegible] in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exp
	£	£		£	£
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1892	823,522	1,529
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1893	528,331	626
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1894	542,427	374
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1895	624,288	683
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1896	1,729,871	2,064
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			

imports comprise a large number of articles, amongst which the ng are the most important :—

scription of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
&c.	401	971	554	644	50,758
e	5,024	3,832	2,943	4,550	4,991
and carriage materials	33,327	12,751	17,165	17,278	24,131
apothecaries' ware ...	21,846	9,551	9,844	13,002	20,445
erved)	27,314	19,028	14,754	19,028	35,527
	694	240	......	......	264,199
and upholstery	13,831	6,117	5,307	4,495	6,842
	100,203	51,574	21,967	20,208	33,173
teel	8,573	8,250	6,631	10,536	11,690
	49,096	52,411	54,867	71,967	70,402
	18,973	19,393	27,662	22,070	24,308
	19,762	11,421	14,594	19,930	71,603
erved)	7,958	1,991	1,065	831	4,371
ks, stationery, etc....	46,505	51,189	28,626	34,696	56,103
lant	8,214	1,845	2,494	2,996	2,100
chines	21,182	6,476	21,120	13,578	19,778
e and plated ware ...	5,557	2,231	2,990	2,529	2,767
ressed and undressed	134,503	58,738	55,203	82,979	117,772
igars, etc.	45,689	28,032	32,848	47,508	110,774
e	6,625	5,032	5,023	10,460	8,207
nd clocks	16,929	6,140	6,216	8,246	10,288
	500	......	......	......	445,690

ther articles imported are mostly manufactured goods. In rs there has been a fairly large import of breadstuffs from the tates, and during 1886 the value of such imports was £96,216 ; the value of flour imported reached £54,490, and of wheat, . In 1895, however, the imports of grain and pulse of all y amounted to £781 ; but in 1896 they amounted to no less 7,200, of which wheat represented £445,690, and flour £264,199. e importation was due to the failure of the wheat crop in the colonies, from which the New South Wales deficiency is supplied.

ports to the United States are chiefly confined to specie and a les of raw material, the produce of the colony, the principal are coal, tin, wool, and marsupial skins. No other goods are exported in considerable quantities. During the last five year value of the export of the principal articles was:—

Description of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	
	£	£	£	£	
Gold (bars and dust) ..	....	16,473	....	....	....
Gold (coin)...................	986,000	285,600	100,218	100,000	1,677
Coal	142,270	111,240	112,271	106,940	[illegible]
Tin	72,889	70,584	28,484	44,768	[illegible]
Skins (chiefly marsupial)	234,290	89,736	43,749	200,998	[illegible]
Wool	51,591	17,572	79,336	218,679	[illegible]
Shale	3,354	1,752	418	904	1

For some years past there has been a considerable export of go America. The quantity sent away during 1892 and the two pre years was especially large, but it fell off considerably during the three years. In 1896, however, the quantity shipped to the U States exceeded a million and a half. The value of the precious both coined and uncoined, exported during the last ten years was:-

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
	£		£
1887	651,612	1892	986,000
1888	578,488	1893	302,073
1889	751,220	1894	100,218
1890	1,016,940	1895	100,000
1891	1,710,670	1896	1,677,742

BELGIUM.

The direct trade between this colony and Belgium began in 1881 may, to a large extent, be attributed to the International Exhib [illegible] in Sydney during 1879-80. In the year mentioned the com imports and exports amounted to only £2[illegible],237, while in 1893 they [illegible] to £1,[illegible],720, although in 1896 they were only value [illegible]. This cannot but be regarded as an enormous increa [illegible] a time. In point of value the Belgian trade of the colo [illegible] that of any other foreign country, Germany, France United States excepted; but the port of Antwerp, which re [illegible] of the trade, is a distributing centre for a great part o [illegible] for French, German, and other Continental market [illegible] to say how much of the goods shipped to Belgiu [illegible]

[illegible] from Belgium comprise a large number of ar [illegible] bars, plate, and [illegible] total imports, and glas [illegible] imported to some e [illegible] considerable fluct utward trade with Belgium is confined almost entirely to wool some tallow and skins and hides are also exported. During amount of scoured and washed wool sent to Belgian ports was 9 lb., valued at £125,071, and 21,518,864 lb. of greasy wool of e of £631,703, making a total of £756,774. Belgium was, e, next to Great Britain and France, the largest purchaser of uth Wales wool in 1896. The following table shows the import ort trade with Belgium since 1887 :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
	37,735	557,710	1892	227,363	951,570
	64,766	723,286	1893	129,114	1,121,606
	88,843	725,687	1894	115,119	1,121,822
	130,819	1,011,864	1895	150,288	780,826
	188,277	1,039,333	1896	104,293	877,880

GERMANY.

ge trade has been maintained with Germany since 1879. Direct ication was established in 1887 by the North German Lloyd's y, of Bremen, and further extended by a line of German cargo ading between Hamburg and Sydney since 1888. This trade has considerable dimensions, and now probably exceeds that with ner foreign country, although the Customs figures may not disclose this fact. The larger trade with the United States in ars is, as has been shown, mainly due to shipments of gold. The g table shows the values of the principal articles imported from y during the last five years :—

escription of Goods.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
drapery, boots, etc.. ...	98,836	77,703	46,545	72,747	110,097
....	4,995	6,254	6,411	9,090	17,902
aper, stationery, etc...	9,470	7,254	12,610	11,036	20,387
....	7,910	4,982	4,949	6,998	22,331
....	17,559	5,159	1,463	25,498	31,131
e	38,272	15,498	3,279	5,308	11,036
d glassware	13,073	9,009	9,953	12,200	26,001
iron manufactures......	95,578	40,051	47,467	49,972	95,975
ry	7,323	6,486	3,493	2,760	14,964
instruments	60,633	28,930	23,820	34,989	55,056
machines	7,846	3,664	2,700	5,481	3,052
....	40,862	35,997	15,799	34,576	39,102
....	7,494	1,927	306	2,271	3,913
hic material..............	2,955	1,237	4,500	4,163	3,180
cigars, and cigarettes..	34,350	27,041	16,971	12,556	19,744
fancy goods	29,120	21,896	18,424	21,364	19,035

exports consist almost entirely of wool, the value of which, in vas £720,063, out of a total export of £771,389. The only other items of a considerable value exported during 1896 were skin hides, £23,136; and silver ore, £15,920. The increase in the export during the last few years is chiefly due to the greater fa now existing for direct shipment:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Ex
	£	£		£	
1887	296,952	100,012	1892	581,402	1,01
1888	481,009	128,546	1893	373,233	97
1889	533,082	519,435	1894	345,364	91
1890	639,475	404,280	1895	425,697	1,14
1891	773,016	437,522	1896	690,843	77

FRANCE AND NEW CALEDONIA.

The French trade has risen in importance since 1881, a result entirely due to the establishment of direct communication betwee colony and the Republic by the Messageries Maritimes Compan it has been accompanied by a corresponding falling off in the trad New Caledonia, the chief dependency of France in the South Thus, while in 1887 the total value of French imports and e amounted to only £242,913, as against £1,618,881 in 1896, t New Caledonia fell during the corresponding period from £207, £151,598.

Wearing apparel and drapery form in most years the largest c imports from France; the imports of drapery and silk amoun 1896 to £21,601, of apparel to £6,053, and of boots to £1,41 1896, however, these goods were surpassed by wines and spirit import of the former amounting to £19,874, and of the latter to £ Toys and fancy goods to the value of £5,576; cigars, £7,493; c tartar, £15,477; glassware, £2,146; leather, £2,965; and roofin £4,015; were the only other goods largely imported. Great qu of French goods are imported from Great Britain; but the i trade will ultimately be superseded by direct trade, and the commission and double handling thus saved to the colony.

Wool forms the chief export to France. The value exported 1896 was £1,285,093 an increase of £96,042 over the export preceding year. Sheepskins to the value of £114,310, and othe £6,138, were also exported. The trade with France since 1887 is in the following table:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Ex
	£	£		£	
1887	157,732	86,151	1892	77,436	80
1888	154,856	139,773	1893	49,436	1,13
1889	179,980	104,194	1894	70,649	1,06
1890	117,871	233,924	1895	76,663	1,43
1891	130,321	480,589	1896	145,972	1,47

As already pointed out, New Caledonia is an important market for he produce of the colony, though its value has been considerably affected by the establishment of regular communication between France and her dependency. The trade with New Caledonia reached a value of £207,888 in 1887, produce being imported into New South Wales to the value of £70,676, and exported to the amount of £137,212. Since that year, as will be seen below, the imports and exports show a very considerable decline :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1887	70,676	137,212	1892	18,242	184,128
1888	68,637	153,957	1893	21,417	89,791
1889	85,582	189,660	1894	25,171	72,732
1890	83,920	193,389	1895	28,345	71,344
1891	48,378	185,768	1896	41,263	110,335

CHINA.

With the exception of Chile, with which an export trade to the value of £137,246, chiefly in coal, was transacted in 1896, the only other foreign country whose trade with New South Wales reaches a large figure is China. The imports and exports credited to Hong Kong, however, belong in reality to the country generally, and the diminution which has taken place in the China trade since 1881 is to be attributed in no small degree to the transference of part of the trade from the ports of the Empire to Hong Kong. Still, when allowance is made on this score, it will be found that the actual loss of trade is by no means inconsiderable. The main import from China is tea, which exhibits a falling off, the decline being attributable to the larger consumption of Indian and Ceylon teas, the imports of which have largely increased of late years. The direct export trade has never been great. To correctly gauge the commercial relations between this colony and China, the trade of Hong Kong should be considered in conjunction with the figures given below :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1887	251,722	14,510	1892	217,996	9,810
1888	309,934	7,651	1893	164,481	5,609
1889	257,353	11,587	1894	131,006	7,581
1890	241,840	1,037	1895	133,870	7,943
1891	270,929	12,164	1896	190,545	7,877

JAPAN.

The recent war in the East has given Japan a new importance in the es of the world, and that enterprising country may in the future offer larger market for many of the products of New South Wales.

Feeling in the Australian colonies, however, is averse to advantage of the provisions of the commercial treaty concluded b Great Britain and Japan, as to do so would have the effect of o up the country to the unrestricted immigration of the Japanese. South Wales will, therefore, derive no benefit from this treaty. while the trade amounts to £76,380, the imports in 1896 being at £40,857, and the exports at £35,523. The principal artic ported during the year were—rice, £8,206; toys and fancy £10,908; drapery, £656; silks, £7,190; brushware, £1,002; pa £180; oils, £1,163; mats and matting, £1,369; drugs and che £821; edible nuts, £755; furniture and upholstery, £2,293; l materials, 1,105; leather, £433; printing paper, £755; rugs, and seeds, £346; while the exports chiefly consisted of wool, £5 tallow, £3,475; gluepieces, £1,825; bones, £2,016; skins, £649 £172; drapery, £180; and leather, £2,367. The shipments (may be expected to show a substantial increase; and the recent lishment of a Japanese line of steamers with the ports of this should result in an extension of trade.

Balance of Trade.

The imports of the colony, taken over a series of years, greatly the exports. The causes of this excess are chiefly two—the i British money to the colony for investment, and the proceeds o floated by the Government for the purpose of carrying out public Since 1890 these importations have to a large extent ceased, a exports have exceeded the imports; for not only has the col send out the value of the goods imported, with their freight to its but also the amount of interest payable on loans, the earnings of sent here for investment, and the incomes derived by persons abroad from property held in the colony. In 1895 the excess of over imports reached a sum of nearly £6,000,000.

The following is a statement of the balance of trade for each last ten years:—

Year.	Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	£	£
1887	649,567	....
1888	309,147	....
1889	....	431,877
1890	569,067	....
1891	....	560,623
1892	....	1,195,721
1893	....	4,814,188
1894	....	4,775,732
1895	....	5,942,370
1896	....	2,448,839

sumption. A feature of the *ad valorem* duties was that they fell
y on non-British products, as goods, wares, and merchandise, the
, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, and not the
of specific duties, were admitted free. In April, 1830, a
n of the tariff was made, and it was enacted that on spirits, the
e of the United Kingdom or of His Majesty's plantations in the
Indies, and imported direct from the United Kingdom, there
be paid a duty of 6s. 6d. per gallon; on spirits made or distilled
rain, the produce of the colony or its dependencies, 2s. 6d. per
and if made from sugar or molasses 8s. 6d. per gallon; and on
not the produce of the United Kingdom, imported, 8s. 6d. per
. On unmanufactured tobacco there was levied a duty of 1s. 6d.
, and on manufactured tobacco or snuff 2s. per lb. These were
ly fixed duties; on all other goods, not being the growth, produce,
nufacture of the United Kingdom, there was payable an *ad*
n duty of 5 per cent.

duties remained at these rates until the 1st April, 1840, when
tion from any article except grain was prohibited. From the
ctober of the same year the duty on spirits, the produce of the
d Kingdom, or of British possessions in the West Indies or
America, and imported direct from the United Kingdom, was
t 9s. per gallon; on all other spirits the duty was to be 12s. per
. The duty on wine was fixed at 15 per cent. *ad valorem*; and
, sugar, flour, meal, wheat, rice, and other grain or pulse, 5 per
ad valorem. Unmanufactured tobacco was subject to a duty of
. per lb., and manufactured 2s. per lb.; all other goods, not the
e or manufacture of the United Kingdom, were subject to a duty
per cent. *ad valorem.* From the same date the duty on locally
d spirits was fixed at 6s. 6d. per gallon; but on the 1st January,
it was raised to 9s. per gallon, which was the duty payable on
made in and imported from the United Kingdom. The restriction
al distilleries in regard to the use of anything but grain for dis-

On the 5th August, 1852, what is known as the E. Deas-Tho tariff came into effect. The duties were made uniform for all count trading with the colony, the differential treatment of British g being done away with. The tariff was as follows:—

Articles.	Rate of Duty.	
Ale and Beer in wood	⅌ gallon,	1d.
,, in bottle	,,	2d.
Coffee, chocolate, and cocoa	⅌ lb.,	¾d.
Dried fruits	,,	½d.
Brandy and gin	⅌ proof gal.,	6s.
Whisky, rum, and all other spirits	,,	4s.
Perfumed spirit	⅌ gallon,	4s.
Cordials	,,	6s.
Refined sugar	⅌ cwt.,	3s. 4d.
Unrefined sugar	,,	2s. 6d.
Molasses	,,	1s. 8d.
Tea	⅌ lb.,	3d.
Manufactured tobacco, until 31 December, 1853	⅌ lb.,	1s. 6d.
,, after 31 December, 1853	,,	1s.
Unmanufactured tobacco, to 31 December, 1853	,,	1s.
,, after 31 December, 1853	,,	8d.
Cigars and Snuff	,,	2s.
Wine, in wood or bottle	⅌ gallon,	1s.
Colonial distilled spirit	⅌ proof gal.,	3/8

The duties remained untouched for two years, when the charges spirits were increased as follows, as from November 10, 1854:—

Articles.	Rate Duty.	
Brandy and gin	⅌ proof gal.,	9s.
Whisky, rum, and other spirits	,,	6s.
Perfumed spirit	⅌ gallon,	6s.
Cordials	,,	9s.
Colonial distilled spirit	⅌ proof gal.,	5/8

From the 14th September, 1855, the following revised scale of dut was imposed:—

Articles.	Rate of Duty.	
Brandy and gin	⅌ proof gal.,	10s.
Whisky, rum, and all other spirits	,,	7s.
Perfumed spirits	⅌ gallon,	7s.
Cordials	,,	10s.
Wine	,,	2s.
Ale and beer, in wood	,,	1d.
,, in bottle	,,	2d.
Tea	⅌ lb.,	3d.
Sugar, refined and candy	⅌ cwt.,	6s. 8d.
,, unrefined	,,	5s.
Treacle and molasses	,,	3s. 4d.
Coffee and chicory	⅌ lb.,	2d.
Cigars	,,	3s.
Tobacco and snuff	,,	2s.
Colonial spirits distilled from sugar	⅌ proof gal.,	6/5

This tariff remained in force for ten years: the only changes were that opium was added to the list of dutiable goods at 10s. per unmanufactured tobacco was charged from 1st January, 1862, with at the rate of 1s. per lb. instead of 2s. On the same date an export was levied on gold at the rate of 2s. 6d. per oz., but on the 13th ober this export duty was reduced to 1s. 6d. per oz., and continued force for seventeen years, the duty being abolished 10th July, 9. A poll-tax of £10 was levied on Chinese from 22nd November, 1.

he next alteration in the tariff was the imposition of a duty of 1s. package on all goods imported into the colony, excepting live stock, r, wheat, sugar, tea, and goods in transit. These duties were in ition to existing duties, and were chargeable until the close of the r 1867. They were followed by an all round increase of 20 per cent. he duties payable in respect of all goods imported for home consump-, with the exception of tea, sugar, brandy, and gin. These itional duties remained in force until the 29th November, 1865, n a new tariff was imposed. The Act sanctioning the tariff was nted to on the 19th January, 1866; that is, about seven weeks after duties were collected. The tariff as amended was as follows:—

Articles.		Rate of Duty.	
Tea		⅌ lb.,	3d.
Sugar	refined	⅌ cwt.,	6s. 8d.
	unrefined	,,	5s.
	molasses	,,	3s. 4d.
Coffee and chicory		⅌ lb.,	2d.
Tobacco	manufactured, and snuff	,,	2s.
	unmanufactured	,,	1s.
	cigars	,,	3s.
Spirits and spirituous compounds		⅌ gallon,	10s.
Wines		,,	3s.
Ale and porter	in bottle	,,	6d.
	in wood	,,	3d.
Malt		⅌ bushel,	6d.
Hops		,,	2d.
Opium		⅌ lb.,	20s.
Rice		⅌ ton,	40s.
Dried fruits		⅌ cwt.,	10s.

On all other goods except those on the free list an *ad valorem* duty of per cent. was chargeable. The free list comprised flour, wheat, mals, fresh fruits, wool, tallow, and some other articles, chiefly of export. The package duty was continued, as well as the duty of 0 levied on Chinese males arriving in the colony, and the excise duty colonial distilled spirits was raised to 9s. 5d. per gallon. The poll- on Chinese was repealed on 20th November, 1867, and for the next rteen years the immigration of these aliens was unrestricted.

A further important change in the tariff was made, dating from 22nd May, 1871. The number of articles subject to specific duties very largely increased, and the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duties continued; but there was a much larger free list, introduced, it stated, for the purpose of lightening as much as possible the South Island trade. The *ad valorem* duties were abolished on the 1st Janu 1874, and the number of articles liable to specific duty was redu The next twelve and a half years saw little alteration in the bod the tariff, the changes made being chiefly in the direction of increas the duties on wines, spirits, and tobacco. From the 10th Decemb 1879, the spirit duties stood as follow:—

Articles.	Rate of Duty.	
Spirits and spirituous compounds	℘ proof gall.,	12s.
Colonial distilled spirits	,,	12s.
Sparkling wine	℘ gallon,	10s.
Other wine	,,	5s.

An Act taking effect from the 20th February, 1884, imposed a dut 1d. per lb. on stearine, and established the following duties on tobacco:

Articles.	Rate of Duty.	
Cigarettes	℘ lb.,	6s.
Cigars..	,,	6s.
Manufactured tobacco and snuff	,,	3s.
Unmanufactured tobacco for manufacturing purposes..	,,	1s.

The same Act increased the duty on opium to 20s. per lb., and followed by the imposition of an excise duty on locally-made tobac 1s. per lb., and on cigars and cigarettes of 2s. 6d. per lb.

In 1886 a considerable change was made in the tariff. From 7th April the articles liable to fixed duties were largely increas number, and the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duties were reimposed. In following year (3rd June, 1887) an excise duty of 3d. per gallon made payable on beer brewed in the colony, and on the 8th July excise on locally made tobacco was increased to 1s. 3d. per lb.

The specific and *ad valorem* duties imposed in September, 1886, repealed on the 8th July, 1887, the repeal as regards malt and taking effect from 1st May, and for other duties from 1st October, 1 The new schedule of duties which came into operation was much the tariff existing prior to the changes of 1886, but the duty payab spirits, both local and imported, was increased to 14s. per proof ga and on spirituous compounds to 14s. per liquid gallon.

In March, 1888, the tariff was again altered. The number of art subject to specific duties was largely increased, and *ad valorem* 20 and 15 per cent. were imposed. There was, however, a consid [illegible]. The duties took effect as from the 2nd December, 1891.

ce of four years this tariff was abolished, and an entirely new of duties came into force with the first day of 1896. The *ad* duties were absolutely repealed, as well as the great bulk of the duties; the duties on narcotics and spirituous liquors were d as a permanent tariff; and certain other duties were to be ined for a certain period, after which they were to cease. The ng are the Customs duties now in force:—

PERMANENT TARIFF.

	Articles.	Rate of Duty.
	On all kinds of spirits and spirituous compounds imported, and not otherwise enumerated	⅌ proof gall., 14s.
	No allowance beyond 16·5 shall be made for the underproof of any spirit of a less strength than 16·5 underproof.	
	Case spirits—Contents of two, three, four, or five gallons shall be charged—	
	Two gallons and under as two gallons.	
	Over two gallons and not exceeding three as three gallons.	
	Over three gallons and not exceeding four as four gallons.	
	Over four gallons and not exceeding five as five gallons.	
	Bitters, essences, fluid extracts, sarsaparilla, tinctures, medicines, infusions, and toilet preparations containing—	
	Not more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit	⅌ gall., 3s. 6d.
	Not more than 50 per cent. of proof spirit	,, 7s.
	Not more than 75 per cent. of proof spirit	,, 10s. 6d.
	If containing more than 75 per cent. of proof spirit	,, 14s.
	If containing spirit overproof to be charged as spirituous compounds	⅌ proof gall., 14s.
	Methylated spirit	⅌ gallon, 1d.
	Perfumed spirits, perfumed waters, Florida water and bay rum	⅌ liquid gall., 20s.
	Sparkling—For six reputed quarts, or twelve reputed pints	...... 10s.
	Other kinds	⅌ gallon, 5s.
	Other kinds—For six reputed quarts, or twelve reputed pints	...... 5s.
e, porter, spruce, her beer, cider, erry.	In wood or jar	⅌ gallon, 6d.
	In bottle	,, 9d.
	For six reputed quarts, or twelve reputed pints	,, 9d.
	Delivered from ship's side or from a Customs Bond for home consumption—manufactured, unmanufactured, and snuff	⅌ lb., 3s.
	Unmanufactured, entered to be manufactured in the colony. At the time of removal from a Customs Bond or from an importing ship to any licensed tobacco manufactory for manufacturing purposes only into tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	,, 1s.
	Sheepwash	,, 3d.
	nd cigarettes (including wrappers in latter case)	,, 6s.
	nd any preparation thereof	,, 20s.

DIMINISHING DUTIES.

Candles per lb., or reputed package of that weight, and so in proportion for any such reputed weight, night lights, and stearine ⅌ lb.,

From 1st July, 1897.. ,,

,, ,, 1899 Free.

Oil, kerosene, naphtha, and gasoline ⅌ gallon,

From 1st July, 1896 ,,

,, ,, 1897 Free.

Oils, except linseed oil (raw or boiled), fish and seal oils, black whale, cocoanut, sperm, palm, and essential oils ⅌ gallon,

From 1st July, 1896 ,,

,, ,, 1897 Free.

Sugar—Refined.	Sugar—Raw, and Solid Glucose.	Molasses and Treacle—Glucose, Liquid, and Syrup.	Date.
per cwt. s. d.	per cwt. s. d.	per cwt. s. d.	
6 8	5 0	3 4	Until 30th June, 1
5 4	4 0	2 8	From 1st July, 1
4 0	3 0	2 0	From 1st July, 1
2 8	2 0	1 4	From 1st July, 1
1 4	1 0	0 8	From 1st July, 1
Free.	Free.	Free.	From 1st July, 1

Articles.	Rate of D
Biscuits	⅌ lb.,
From 1st July, 1898	,,
From 1st July, 1900	Free.
Confectionery (including cakes, comfits, liquorice, liquorice paste, lozenges of all kinds, cocoanut in sugar, sugar-candy, succades, and sweetmeats)	⅌ lb.,
From 1st July, 1898	,,
From 1st July, 1900	Free.
Fruits—Dried, candied and prunes (exclusive of dates)	⅌ lb.,
From 1st July, 1898	,,
From 1st July, 1900	Free.
Jams and Jellies—per lb. or reputed package of that weight, and so in proportion for any such reputed weight	⅌ lb.,
From 1st July, 1898	,,
From 1st July, 1900	Free.
Preserves and canned fruits, fruits boiled, peel drained, or dry	⅌ lb.,
From 1st July, 1898	,,
From 1st July, 1900	Free

Customs Revenue.

mount of revenue collected by the Customs, including excise ing each of the last five years, is given in the following table :—

iculars of Receipt and Rate of Duty.			Amount Collected.				
			1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Import Duties.			£	£	£	£	£
....	⅌ gallon,	20s.	4,392	3,907	4,882	4,786	5,578
	,,	14s.	808,019	680,335	651,870	636,488	653,652
l Spirits ..	,,	1s.	1,764	1,251	1,252	1,451	......
	,,	1d.	......	......	......	......	179
l............	,,	5s.	29,890	21,672	17,941	17,217	17,265
rkling	,,	10s.	8,770	5,828	5,861	6,092	7,045
er in wood...	,,	6d.	24,750	20,658	21,747	21,205	20,845
er in bottle...	,,	9d.	46,998	27,781	32,825	30,341	34,181
lanufactured	⅌ lb.,	3s.	151,568	140,289	135,189	138,204	141,751
leaf	,,	3s.	879	573	821	1,672	1,703
r Manufactur- oses only....	,,	1s.	30,624	29,707	26,761	31,552	34,128
....	,,	6s.	71,923	59,273	55,329	55,299	53,848
....	,,	6s.	21,946	17,888	17,864	20,765	20,241
fined	⅌ cwt.,	6s. 8d.	999	486	518	743	972
r	,,	5s.	75,837	68,827	95,344	89,549	88,790
....	,,	3s. 4d.	925	1,141	961	597	944
fined, ex Re-	,,	6s. 8d.	400	550	691	333	......
r, ex Refinery	,,	5s.	54,525	34,775	62,070	39,490	89,210
x Refinery...	,,	3s. 4d.	4,000	4,000	4,233	6,200	7,600
....	⅌ lb.,	3d.	*4,009	......	......	......	......
....	,,	3d.	†574	......	......	‡16	......
	,,	6d.	1,543	819	558	304	‖92
....	,,	3d.	11	4	11	20	......
	,,	6d.	519	193	36	25	‖10
....	,,	20s.	15,869	17,819	16,208	15,719	16,616
....	⅌ ton,	60s.	15,327	15,869	15,514	16,004	‖6,392
ts	⅌ lb.,	2d.	54,950	51,844	48,966	58,993	62,273
ough	⅌ 100 ft. sup.,	1s. 6d.	47;945	41,848	39,737	35,780	‖11,206
ressed.......	,,	3s.	14,750	10,746	10,808	10,263	‖2,339
....	⅌ gallon,	6d.	45,185	48,829	52,226	53,582	¶21,397
	,,	3d.	......	......	......	......	**16,902
....	⅌ cental,	1s.	48,138	26,624	32,825	17,423	§6
....	,,	10d.	23,593	11,827	6,405	8,970	§......
cted on Samples of Spirits........			149	110	132	115	124
ific Duties			425,906	320,468	287,010	324,490	91,507
n Duties	10 per cent.		538,872	387,896	353,825	344,699	§144
	15 ,,		88,681	61,106	60,510	59,120	§29
tal Import Duties			2,664,230	2,114,943	2,060,930	2,047,507	1,406,969
Excise.							
istilled Spirits	⅌ gal.,	14s.	21,132	18,165	14,694	8,606	5,609
Tobacco	⅌ lb.,	1s. 3d.	122,789	111,035	108,281	117,734	116,101
igars and Cigarettes..	,,	2s. 6d.	10,265	13,188	15,011	17,183	21,840
Beer.....	⅌ gal.,	3d.	135,090	121,915	118,855	122,773	127,217
ctory License Fees..............			1,265	1,201	1,244	1,356	1,335
Total Excise....................			290,541	265,504	258,085	267,652	272,102

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st March, 1892 ; free from that date. **† To 1st April, 1892 ; free from that date.**

‡ From 10th to 16th May, 1895 ; amount collected refunded.

December, 1896 ; free from that date. **‖ To 30th June, 1896 ; free from that date.**

¶ To 30th June, 1896. **** From 1st July, 1896.**

Particulars of Receipt.	Amount Collected.			
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS.	£	£	£	£
Tax on Chinese	100	700	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bonded Warehouse License Fees	9,872	10,255	10,146	[illegible]
Rent of Goods in Queen's Warehouse	71	47	34	[illegible]
Pilotage	33,426	29,125	31,402	[illegible]
Harbour and Light Rates	20,610	17,830	21,212	[illegible]
Removal Dues	4,474	3,044	4,536	[illegible]
Shipping Fees (at ports other than Sydney or Newcastle).........................	......	......	10	7
Attendance of Officers superintending repacks	......	......	20	[illegible]
Crown's Share of Seizures and Penalties*....	1,315	2,370	669	[illegible]
Surplus Proceeds, Sale of Overtime Goods*..	363	265	246	[illegible]
Tonnage Rates at Newcastle................	8,352	7,960	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tonnnage Rates at Wollongong	......	......	......	......
Tobacco—Licenses to Sell	603	638	573	[illegible]
Miscellaneous	......	......	3	......
Sundries*	659	1,492	1,022	[illegible]
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS .....£	84,845	72,536	78,807	80,942
TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED ....£	3,039,616	2,452,983	2,397,822	2,396,101
DRAWBACKS AND REFUNDS ....£	89,659	52,173	53,957	74,563
NET CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUE......£	2,949,957	2,400,810	2,343,865	[illegible]

* Collected by Customs Department and paid direct into the Treasury.

The revenue derived from imported spirits, inclusive of perfu spirits and samples, during the past ten years, was :—

Year.	Quantity on which duty was paid.	Duty.	Amount of duty collected.
	gallons.		£
1887	1,121,101	12s., 14s., 15s.	759,608
1888	1,178,293	14s. and 15s.	806,938
1889	1,164,360	14s. and 15s.	804,426
1890	1,196,561	14s. and 15s.	827,314
1891	1,241,503	14s., 15s., and 20s.	869,513
1892	1,158,703	14s. and 20s.	812,560
1893	975,971	14s. and 20s.	684,352
1894	936,125	14s. and 20s.	656,884
1895	914,054	14s. and 20s.	641,380
1896	939,368	14s. and 20s.	659,354

onial distilled spirits are subject to an excise equal to the duty
ported spirits. In 1886 the quantity entered for consumption was
gallons, on which a sum of £5,846 was paid; but in 1887, not-
standing the increased duty levied, the quantity subject to excise
ased to 15,762 gallons, and the amount of duty to £10,754. In
the duty collected amounted to £21,132 on 30,187 gallons of spirit
lled, in 1893 to £18,165 on 25,950 gallons, in 1894 to £14,694 on
91 gallons, in 1895 to £8,606 on 12,294 gallons, and in 1896 to
09 on 8,013 gallons, the diminished quantities of 1895 and 1896
g due to the closing of the only distillery in the colony in the
ile of the year 1895.

ill wine is subject to an import duty of 5s. per gallon, and sparkling
to 10s. per gallon. The import of the first-named is now less
it was ten years ago, and the Customs revenue derived from this
le has considerably declined. The amount of still wine imported
ng 1896 was 69,060 gallons, on which £17,265 duty was paid. The
tity of sparkling wine on which duty amounting to £7,045 was
cted was 14,090 gallons. The growing favour in which Australian
is held, and the general depression, which has limited the amount
oney available for luxuries of this kind, have had the effect of
cing the importations of foreign wine.

e import of ale and beer was larger during 1891 than in any
ious year, the quantities of beer imported, on which duty was
being 1,017,617 gallons in wood, and 1,481,681 gallons in bottle, or
al of 2,499,298 gallons; in 1896 the figures had fallen to 833,800
ns and 911,493 gallons respectively, paying duty to the amount of
026, at the rate of 6d. per gallon for beer in wood or jar and 9d. for
ed. The excise duty on beer brewed in the colony is at the rate of
er gallon. It was first collected for the second half-year of 1887,
amounted to £63,565, the quantity on which duty was paid being
5,217 gallons; in 1892, excise duty amounting to £135,090 was
cted on 10,807,200 gallons; in 1893, £120,915 on 9,753,200
ns; in 1894, £118,855 on 9,508,400 gallons; in 1895, £122,773
,821,840 gallons; and in 1896, £127,217 on 10,177,360 gallons.
set-off against the duty thus imposed, no duties are levied on
and malt.

e duties levied on tobacco imported into the colony are, on the
factured article, 3s. per lb.; on tobacco for manufacturing purposes
livered from bond to any licensed tobacco manufactory, 1s. per lb.;
e leaf if delivered from bond for home consumption, and not to any
sed factory, 3s.; and on cigars and cigarettes, 6s. The excise on
co made in the colony is 1s. 3d. per lb., and on cigars and cigarettes,
d. The total amount of import duties collected on tobacco and
s during 1896 was £251,671, which was more by £4,179 than the
nt collected in 1895.

In 1884 excise duties were first levied on tobacco manufacture colony. The amount collected annually during the last ten years

Year.	Tobacco.	Cigars and Cigarettes.	Year.	Tobacco.	Cig Cig
	£	£		£	
1887	127,545	1,284	1892	122,789	
1888	128,899	1,038	1893	111,035	
1889	123,212	1,150	1894	108,281	
1890	118,287	2,806	1895	117,734	
1891	123,937	7,425	1896	116,101	

For a few years after the duty was increased in 1886 the revenue from the imported leaf steadily declined, its place being supplied grown in the colony. To meet this falling off, the excise duty le colonial-made tobacco entered for home consumption was increa March, 1887, from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb. If the American leaf, subject to a duty of 1s. per lb., were used exclusively in the manu of tobacco in the local factories, the actual duty paid on the f product would have been, previous to the alteration in the tariff, lb., and 2s. 3d. since the alteration, as against 3s. for the imported But imported leaf is by no means exclusively employed—large qu of locally-grown leaf are used, and the absolute amount of duty p lb. on the tobacco made in the colony, other than cigars and ettes, was 1s. $5\frac{7}{25}$d. in 1887, 1s. $6\frac{1}{2}$d. in 1888, 1s. $6\frac{3}{10}$d. in 18 $6\frac{7}{12}$d. in 1890, 1s. $6\frac{9}{10}$d. in 1891, 1s. $6\frac{3}{4}$d. in 1892, 1s. 7d. in 1s. $6\frac{3}{4}$d. in 1894, 1s. 7d. in 1895, and 1s. $7\frac{2}{5}$d. in 1896. This is more fully dealt with in the subsequent chapter on "Agric Production."

The duty on tea, which was 3d. per lb., was abolished in Marcl The amount of revenue per head derived from the duty varie little from year to year, being a little over £100,000. Th increase shown in 1891 is attributable to withdrawals from t expectation of an increase of duty which was not imposed. The received from this source for the ten years from 1883 and 1892

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1883	75,713	1888	100,617
1884	100,059	1889	108,954
1885	98,915	1890	106,986
1886	105,979	1891	120,326
1887	106,815	1892*	4,009

* To 1st March.

During 1896 refined sugar coming into the colony was subj duty of 6s. 8d. per cwt., but this rate was reduced to 5s. 4d. per the 1st July, 1897. The Commissioners of Customs, howeve lude loaf sugar under the heading of refined. The quantity imported ring 1896 was 2,916 cwt., paying duty to the amount of £972. Duty as levied during 1896 on raw sugar, which includes all the ordinary gar of trade, at the rate of 5s. per cwt., which was reduced to 4s. on e 1st July, 1897. Notwithstanding this duty, and the large area of e colony adapted for sugar-growing, the imports are considerable. The evenue from raw sugar is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Quantity.	Amount.	Year.	Quantity.	Amount.
	cwt.	£		cwt.	£
1887	520,192	130,048	1892	521,444	130,362
1888	470,668	117,667	1893	414,048	103,602
1889	642,880	160,720	1894	629,656	157,414
1890	558,540	139,625	1895	516,156	129,039
1891	519,725	129,931	1896	712,000	178,000

The other articles in the specific list which produced most revenue 1896 were fruit, green and preserved, which yielded £62,730; oils, rosene and other, £45,941; opium, £16,616; timber, £14,129; bitters, rsaparilla, essences, and tinctures, £13,373; salt, £11,263; candles, 11,169; molasses, £8,544; grain and pulse, £6,505; fish, dried and eserved, £6,150; jams and jellies, £5,579; confectionery, £5,421; tter, £4,563; galvanised iron and manufactures, £4,298; milk, con-nsed and preserved, £3,952; cement, £3,870; glucose, £3,126; and her articles, £10,234; these amounts, together with those already ven for spirits, wines, beer, tobacco, and sugar, making up the amount specific duties collected, viz., £1,406,796.

The *ad valorem* duties were abolished on 31st December, 1895; the all amount of £173 collected in 1896 on importations of the previous ar brings up the total import duties to £1,406,969; but drawbacks d refunds were allowed during the year to the amount of £39,538, so t the net amount was £1,367,431. During the same period the ise duties amounted to £272,102, and drawbacks and refunds to ,437, leaving the net duty £270,665. The net import and excise ties together were £1,638,096.

The following table shows the net Customs' revenue, exclusive of bour dues, etc., in each colony for the year 1896:—

Colony.	Import Duties.	Excise.	Total.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,367,431	270,665	1,638,096
Victoria	1,749,036	304,228	2,053,264
Queensland	1,267,702	71,773	1,339,475
South Australia	576,873	38,442	615,315
Western Australia	988,829	....	988,829
Tasmania	328,919	18,919	347,838
New Zealand	1,765,073	70,066	1,835,139

A statement of the amount per head is apt to lead to false conclusion for it has to be borne in mind that a low consumption of taxable good under a high tariff may give a revenue per head not greater than a hig consumption under a low tariff.

The gross Customs' revenue collected at Sydney, outports, and inland stations during the year 1896 is shown below :—

Station.	Amount.	Station.	Amount.
	£		£
Sydney	1,486,027	Mulwala	3,421
		Mungindi	101
Albury	22,514	Newcastle	123,281
Boggabilla	238	Richmond River	63
Bourke	12,861	Swan Hill Crossing	1,811
Brewarrina	1,395	Tocumwal	3,509
Cobram	1,153	Tweed River	38
Corowa	5,404	Wallangarra	1,032
Deniliquin	9,108	Wentworth	7,523
Eden	70	Wilcannia	11,791
Euston	868	Willyama	46,002
Genoa	1	Wollongong	272
Grafton	91	Paid direct to Treasury	935
Howlong	533		
Moama	9,812	Total ... £	1,759,236
Morpeth	9,382		

Exclusive of the receipts from the public wharfs, and of the ments received from the Marine Board, the revenue of the Custo Department in 1896 was £1,648,765; and the expenditure, includ the value of the stores and stationery used during the year, £61,747, £3 14s. 11d. for every £100 collected. This average cost, which is 7s. 1 more than that in 1895, does not include the interest on £186,760, capital value of the land and buildings occupied in the transaction of Customs business.

FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

Forestry.

EW countries have such a wealth of timber as New South Wales possesses. Its woods are as varied as they are valuable, ranging n the ironbarks, unsurpassed for work requiring hardness and dura- ty, to the kinds suitable for the most delicate specimens of the inet-maker's art. It must be confessed, however, that some varieties imber trees, at one time very plentiful, and which, had they received ntion at the hands of the State, would be plentiful still, are now d to find in any district to which there is easy access. But this is common experience of new countries, where the pioneers, whether lers or timber-getters, cut down indiscriminately, giving no thought nything but their immediate requirements.

'he necessity of preserving the timber resources of the colony, and venting the ruthless destruction of the best species of brush and lwood which was being carried on, principally in the Clarence er district and in the eucalyptus forests on the Murray, led the ernment, in 1871, to establish a certain number of Forest Reserves ughout the country, in which permission to cut timber should be ited upon payment of a fixed fee. It soon became apparent that gent regulations alone could put a stop to the reckless operations he licensed timber-getters; but it was not until September, 1878, such regulations were issued. These appeared not a day too soon, he best species of cedar, which abounded in the Clarence River ricts, had been exploited to such a wasteful extent that the supply is magnificent timber threatened to give out. Cutting down indis- inately trees of all sizes, and clearing the lower lands of their best er, the cedar-cutters, after disposing of all that could be cheaply sported, or easily floated down the rivers in time of flood, left a iderable surplus of felled timber on the ground to lie and rot. Then travelled farther north, to carry on the same depredations along rivers of the neighbouring colony of Queensland. The same system been pursued in the gum forests of the Murray. Considerable ntities of excellent timber were destroyed in the forest reserves of part of the colony, to the detriment of the district, which was ived of its natural wealth, and to the injury of the colony at large, h suffered the loss of much of its best timber without receiving an valent in revenue.

In 1875 the office of Forest Ranger was first created, and this
the formation, in March, 1882, of a Forest Conservation Branch,
was attached to the Department of Mines. During the year 18
Forest Conservation Branch was placed under the administrati
the Colonial Secretary, but it was afterwards again brought und
control of the Minister for Mines and Agriculture. Another ch
however, is to be made, and the branch brought under the Depart
of Lands. In the year 1882 the colony was also subdivided i
number of forest districts. These are inspected by forest rangers,
duty it is to report on the existing state of proclaimed reserves, c
the operations of licensed timber-getters, receive royalties on the v
kinds of timber upon which such dues may be levied, and report
applications to ringbark trees on Crown lands, whether compris
forest reserves or otherwise. In performing many of these dutie
forest rangers, it may be mentioned, are assisted by the mounted
force. The area of reserves under the supervision of the Depar
on the 30th June, 1897, is shown in the following table:—

Class.	Area in Acres.
Class A	2,913,061
Class B	128,995
Class C	2,554,465
Total	5,596,521

As shown in the above table, reserves for the preservation of t
are divided into three classes, according to their importance, an
particular quality and value of the timber which they contain; a
addition, there are a small number of reserves which are at p
only used for the purpose of planting selected species of trees.

Licenses are issued to cut timber on reserves in class A at a fix
of £6 per annum, or 10s. per month, without royalty; and on re
in Class B the fee demanded amounts to £9, or 15s. per month.
reserves in Class C, general permits to cut timber for saw-mills are
at a rate of £6 per annum, or 10s. per month, to which is adde
payment of a royalty of not less than 3d. nor more than 3s. p
superficial feet, as may be decided by the Minister; provided
when the trees are suitable for splitting only the royalty may be c
at not less than 1s. 6d. per 100 cubic feet.

Licenses are also issued to cut and remove timber on ordinary
lands, except timber reserves, reserves for public recreation, s
towns and villages, and areas permanently dedicated for any
purpose; also lands within 1½ chains of any navigable river, lan
under conditional or special lease, or measured for sale, or wit
enclosure of less than 200 acres, or within half a mile of a head
The fee in this case is fixed at £3 per annum, 15s. per quar
5s. for any current month; and the license enables the holder to

any kind of timber except cedar, beech, blackwood, Moreton
e, silky oak, rosewood, red and black bean, and coachwood, the
ee for cutting which is fixed at £6 per annum.
rescribed girth, 5 feet from the surface of the ground (except
, which is to be measured 2 feet from the ground), under which
ment no felling of timbers is permitted, is given in the subjoined
the different species of trees:—

Timber.	Girth. ft.	Girth. in.
r	9	0
t	7	6
ood	7	6
or flooded gum	7	6
c (of various species)	7	6
Moreton Bay pine	7	6
	7	6
n	7	6
d	7	6
ash (*Flindersia aus-*)	7	6
lue gum	7	0
tt	7	0
white box	7	0
e	7	0
um	7	0
	7	0
ech	7	0
h	7	0
d beech	7	0
l	7	0
nt or red-wood	7	0
ahogany	7	0
d gum	7	0
(*Grevillea robusta*)	6	0
y (forest and red)	6	0
y (white)	6	0
ark	6	0
grey box	6	0
x	6	0
	6	0
gum	6	0
	6	0

Timber.	Girth. ft.	Girth. in.
Cudgerie or Flindosa	6	0
Blood-wood	6	0
Sassafras	5	0
Yellow cedar	4	6
Black-wood	4	6
Yellow box	4	6
Stavewood	4	6
Apple-tree	4	6
Blue fig	4	6
Bogum Bogum	4	6
Corkwood (*Ackama Muelleri*)	4	6
Blue-berry ash	4	0
Pigeon-berry ash	4	0
Black, red, or white pine	3	0
Swamp oak	3	0
Forest oak	3	0
Red ash	3	0
Maiden's blush	3	0
Coachwood	3	0
Corkwood (*Endiandra Sieberi* and others)	3	0
Native olive	3	0
Beefwood	3	0
Tulip	3	0
Water gum	3	0
Hickory	3	0
Brigalow	3	0
Myall	3	0
Honeysuckle	3	0
River oak	3	0
Black oak	3	0
Silky oak (*Orites excelsa*)	3	0
Brown pine	3	0

West of Great Dividing Range, 4½ feet for ironbark and 4 feet for stringybark.

icense fee for stripping wattle-bark is fixed at not less than 10s.
e than 40s. per month. No tree of less girth than 15 inches
lack or feather-leaf species, nor less than 12 inches of the
r broad-leaf species of wattle, measured at 2 feet from the
is permitted to be stripped; and each tree is required by the
ns to be thoroughly stripped before the person so employed
to another. Permits are also issued for cutting piles and mining
d for thinning out timber, in order to improve the growth of
remaining; and for cutting and removing from a reserve a
number and kind of trees.

Infringements of the timber regulations are punishable by fine, n exceeding £5 for the first offence, £10 for the second, and £20 for t third, irrespective of the value of the timber and material destroy for which also the offender may be held responsible. The number prosecutions for illegally cutting and removing timber for the period twelve months ended 30th June, 1897, was 142, and convictions w obtained in 125 cases.

In the reserves subject to royalty, the quantity of timber cut duri each of the past six years is shown below. It will be seen that th quantity has fallen off considerably :—

1891	11,760,497 sup. feet
1892	15,818,000 ,,
1893	10,506,472 ,,
1894	5,158,759 ,,
1895	4,922,707 ,,
1896	6,076,916 ,,

in addition to which a large quantity of sleepers and piles was obtain

The revenue of the Department from forestry in 1896 was £8,26 made up as follows :—

	£
Forest reserves—	
Permit licenses	191
Timber-cutters' licenses	816
Wattle bark licenses and miscellaneous	119
Royalty	4,035
Crown lands—	
Quarry, wood-cutters', cedar, and fuel licenses	2,721
Proceeds of sale of seized timber	186
Penalties	196
Total	£8,264

There was also a sum of £463 received from miscellaneous royalty a prickly-pear leases. The cost of administering the Department duri the year was £8,356, being £371 less than the total revenue receiv The amount received from the forest reserves and forest lands of th Crown in each year since the regulations were proclaimed on the 24 September, 1878, is shown below :—

	£		£
1879	7,310	1888	19,019
1880	8,328	1889	16,521
1881	10,156	1890	15,437
1882	12,327	1891	18,455
1883	16,301	1892	16,176
1884	17,565	1893	9,547
1885	13,144	1894	6,350
1886	13,934	1895	6,534
1887	13,629	1896	8,727

During the years 1895 and 1896 about 60,000 acres of red gum, 30,000 acres of pine, and 2,000 acres of coastal forests were improved by thinning-out and destroying the superabundant growths. This work was carried out with the object of ensuring the maturity of a larger number of trees to the acre, and, in consequence of the additional light and air afforded, of their reaching that stage in about two-thirds of the time that would be taken under natural conditions. The cost of the thinning-out operations averaged 5s. 8d. per acre in the red gum areas, 4s. 6d. in the pine areas, and 7s. in the coastal areas; and it is estimated that this outlay will return during the next twenty ears two or three hundred marketable trees to the acre where the resent unimproved average is but four or five trees.

The Forest Conservation Branch is charged with the direction of State Forest Nursery, which is situated at Gosford, in the beautiful istrict of Brisbane Water, where the acclimatisation of valuable oreign timber trees, and the conservation of such of the best indigenous pecies as might otherwise be likely to disappear, are attended to. The rea set apart for the nursery is 65 acres, of which 25 acres are cleared nd cultivated. Among the indigenous trees which are raised there ay be mentioned tallow-wood, blackbutt, beefwood, silky oak, yellow ine, Richmond River beech, the best varieties of ironbark, and red edar, the red cedar seedlings on hand numbering over about 30,000. Of late, special attention has been paid to the cultivation of the white ulberry, in expectation of a demand for this tree in consequence of he increasing interest taken in the cultivation of silk in the colony. It s estimated that there are 28,000 mulberry trees of different varieties, n various stages of growth, in the nursery, besides nearly 100,000 xotic trees of economic value.

In addition to reforesting the Crown reserves with the best classes of imber, the State Forest Nursery distributes specimens among settlers n the sparsely-timbered areas in the Western District of the colony, nd supplies them to municipalities, to the trustees of public reserves, nd for the improvement of church and school lands and other purposes. Altogether, from 1890 to the end of 1896, over half a million plants ere sent out of the nursery, the number for 1896 being 24,769, of hich 11,120 were supplied to public bodies and private persons, and 3,649 were placed in reserves and other plantation areas. The number f merchantable plants remaining in the establishment on the 1st anuary, 1897, was estimated at 104,040, viz., 21,200 in pots, 17,100 eedlings in boxes, and 65,740 plants open-rooted.

The consumption of wattle-bark is very great in this colony, where is in large demand for tanning purposes. During 1896, 93,549 wt. of wattle-bark were imported, valued at £23,285, nearly 72,000 cwt. this supply being obtained from Tasmania. It will thus be readily en that there is room for a large development of the trade in New outh Wales. The Forest Department has taken steps to prevent the indiscriminate stripping of the bark and the destruction of the which should have the effect of stimulating the industry. The fees for stripping wattle-bark in the various districts of the colony from 10s. to 15s. per month.

Forestry is as yet only in its initial stages in New South Wal in fact in Australasia, and the establishment of a School of Fore which the information necessary for the proper conduct of the might be imparted, has been strongly advocated. The foundat such a school would be of great benefit.

EXPORT OF TIMBER.

The depression which has affected the industrial life of Austr common with that of most other lands, has had the good ef showing how desirable it is to diversify the industries of the c In the past there has been an undoubted lack of enterprise in p an export trade, and a disposition has been evinced to re tent with what was being done in this direction with a fe ducts of the pastoral and mining industries. This apathy now to have been shaken off, and it is very probable th near future will see a large increase in the shipments of d produce, and a successful attempt made to supply local want various descriptions of goods which are now imported. W article of commerce has the failure to approach consumers densely-populated countries of the old world been more than with timber. Although New South Wales is rich in har most suitable for use in the various forms of engineering constr and an opening for this class of timber has long existed in the Kingdom and America, until recently but little had been done up a trade with those countries. For many years the develop the local timber trade proceeded on the assumption that the fo the colony afforded a never-failing supply of merchantable wood mistaken notion is not now entertained, but there can be littl that there is for the present abundance of good timber of every tion, and the operations of the Forest Department promise to h effect of continuing the supply. As already stated, the indigeno of the colony are being supplemented by the planting of good species, and the late Director-General of Forests has given it opinion that the soil and climate of New South Wales are sui the growth of the favourite pines and hardwoods of commerce therefore, certain that, with the exercise of a reasonable amount sight, New South Wales would be able to favourably compet portion of the trade of countries less advantageously placed in re this important article.

The timber resources of New South Wales are more valua those of any of the other colonies, and include at least twelve of hardwood trees suitable for export. Notwithstanding this, , the export trade of the colony is exceeded by that of Western ia and of New Zealand. This will be seen from the following hich gives the exports of domestic timber of each of the seven during the past six years. Shooks and staves, doors, sashes, er shaped articles are included in the figures; and sandalwood is l to the colony of Western Australia:—

Colony.	Exports of Timber.					
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
th Wales	53,780	59,028	41,565	34,030	45,029	46,830
....	20,951	10,637	7,083	5,940	8,214	11,991
and	16,671	17,925	5,187	2,720	2,570	5,304
ustralia	926	830	97	54	105	247
Australia	126,776	121,289	66,048	98,234	119,009	182,220*
ia	44,778	39,301	18,090	20,347	32,685	32,997
land	189,760	92,866	106,603	122,686	147,511	136,109

* Estimated.

explanation of the decline in the yearly values since 1891 is to d in the stoppage of public and private works, consequent on turbed financial conditions prevailing in Australasia, the trade ssentially an intercolonial one. It will be noticed, however, e trade shows a tendency to revive. Stronger efforts are now nade to capture a portion of the large timber trade of the United om, and the figures for 1896 show an improvement on those of vious year. Strange to say, Western Australia leads the way ts exports to the United Kingdom in 1896 being valued at 4. New Zealand comes second in its trade with England, the of its domestic exports to Great Britain during 1896 being 7. The trade of New South Wales is largely with Victoria, and cline shown in the table above is due to the smaller imports colony. New Zealand is also an important customer of New Wales, taking a large quantity of ironbark girders, for use in works, direct from the Northern rivers. During the last two owever, New South Wales made a noticeable increase in its trade he United Kingdom, the value of the exports to the mother being £12,681 in 1896, and £10,797 in 1895, as compared 1,253 in 1894; and the North Coast mills are now kept going at ll capacity in supplying timber for paving purposes and railway- e building, in execution of orders received from Great Britain.

The following table shows the value of the timber shipped country from New South Wales in 1896:—

Country.	Value.	Country.
	£	
United Kingdom	12,681	Cape Colony..................
New Zealand..................	9,686	South Sea Islands ....
Victoria	5,740	Germany ....
Queensland	4,054	New Guinea..................
Netherlands	4,002	New Britain..................
South Australia	2,147	Other Countries ....
Fiji	1,778	
Western Australia	1,617	
New Caledonia	1,536	Total ....

The other colonies of Australasia took 49·83 per cent. of the and the islands of Polynesia, 10·77 per cent. The proportion per cent. went to the United Kingdom, as compared with 23·96 in 1895 and 3·68 per cent. in 1894, the value of the timber being £12,681.

The exports in 1896 were made up of the following:—

Description.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Dressed timber	39,052 sup. ft.	376
Rough "	9,020,141 "	42,341
Houses	7 No.	784
Sleepers...	2,714 "	730
Palings	1,000 "	6
Posts and rails........	8,029 "	387
Doors......	74 "	38
Sashes	676 "	214
Shooks and staves	5,453 pkgs.	1,782
Shingles	3,000 No.	4
Spars	2 "	2
Paving blocks	4,350 "	28
Piles	165 "	224
Shutters	36 "	19
Total	....	[illegible]

withstanding the great natural resources of the colony, the s of timber are very considerable and largely exceed the exports, ue of the import trade in 1896 being £344,990. Of this sum, er, re-exports to the value of £26,579 were made, leaving the s for local use at £318,411. The bulk of the timber which comes e colony consists of pines and other soft woods, the native pine in some respects inferior to Oregon and Kauri, but there are other voods equal to any of the timbers imported. The imports the year consisted of dressed timber valued at £47,959, rough estimated at £268,364, and sundries, such as doors, sashes, and staves, laths, shingles, and palings, worth £28,667. The of the dressed timber in 1896 came from Norway, and, to a extent, from the United Kingdom, Victoria, the United States, Australia, Canada, and Queensland; while of the rough logs 3,448 feet came from the United States, 13,578,220 feet from Zealand, 12,864,016 feet from South Australia, and 1,998,916 feet Canada. The bulk of the United States exports are from Port a, California; and the Canadian, from Puget Sound. The trade s show a somewhat large importation from the neighbouring es, but these colonies are not the places where the timber was . Victoria supplies the Riverina district; and South Australia, n Hill, where there is a large demand for timber for mining ses.

e figures which have been given show how small is the export of New South Wales in timber, and how open it is to develop- It is in the hardwoods of the country that the chief expansion de may be looked for. Australian hardwood trees are remarkable e great size of the beams which may be obtained from them, as s for the extreme strength and durability of their wood. From ble given on page 68, it will be seen that the grey ironbark has stance to breaking equal to 17,900 lb. per square inch, as com- with a mean of 11,800 for English oak, and 15,500 for teak. of the other timbers of the colony has so high a resistance aking as this description of ironbark; but nearly all the varieties a greater strength than oak. The absence of branches for the r portion of the height enables the timber to be obtained to the advantage; and as full-grown trees of most varieties are rarely an 100 feet high, with corresponding girth, the quantity of timber able is very large. The characteristics of the principal species alt with in the chapter on "Flora," so that it is unnecessary to repeat here; but it will easily be seen how valuable woods possessing such ies would be found by persons engaged in building construction.

as already been shown that the exports of timber from New South s in 1895 and 1896 compared favourably with those in previous and few sailing vessels left for England without taking supplies rdwoods, ranging from 10,000 to 40,000 superficial feet, in pieces le for wood-blocking and the construction of railway trucks. This satisfactory advance is largely due to private enterprise, but is also small measure attributable to the forwarding of samples to and th tribution of pamphlets in England and on the Continent by the F Department of New South Wales, and a favourable feature of the ments referred to is that they were orders and not consignments t the market. The Government are fully alive to the importance of f ing the trade, and an officer of the Department of Mines has bee pointed to inspect shipments of timber, and to brand the pieces wit initials of the name of the colony and of the kind of timber, and certificates therefor should he consider the wood to be of satisfa quality and of the kind it is represented to be. It is hoped that action will be supported by consignors, and that they will recognis value of a Government certificate in the sale of their shipments, a prevent the possibility of the market being unfavourably affecte consignments of inferior quality.

That the United Kingdom offers unlimited scope for the woo New South Wales may be judged from the fact that it annually im timber to the value of £20,000,000, or considerably more than the of the whole domestic exports of the colony. In 1896 its import in timber came to £21,278,583, composed as follows:—

	£
Hewn:—	
Fir	3,026,595
Oak	862,011
Teak	705,224
Unenumerated	295,544
Sawn:—	
Fir	12,926,526
Unenumerated	454,054
Staves	656,246
Furniture woods and hardwoods:—	
Mahogany	477,265
Unenumerated	900,316
House frames, fittings, etc.	974,802
Total	£21,278,583

In this trade Australasia, with its valuable resources, shared extent of about £180,000, or 0·85 per cent., as compared with £14 or 0·82 per cent., of the total in 1895, and £66,000, or 0·36 per ce 1894. The largest participant was Sweden, with £4,488,169; Bu portion was £4,414,454; Norway's, £1,607,507: Germany's, £1,1 France's, £670,951; Canada and the United States had respectiv quota of £4,238,845 and £2,806,377: while Burmah took £53 its part. The hewn fir was pretty fairly distributed over the countries of Europe: the United States and Canada sent the part of the oak; Burmah supplied from its forests three-fourths teak; while more than half of the unenumerated hewn ti furnished by Canada. The kingdoms of Norway and Sweden, t e, the Canadian Dominion, and the United States of America ed the sawn pine; and the staves were principally the product of ny, Russia, and the United States. The largest supplies of any came from Mexico, British Honduras, and the Gold Coast, between them furnished 31,703 out of 53,772 tons of this favourite rith English furniture-makers. Included in the sum of £900,316 as the value of other "furniture woods and hardwoods" imported, 2,691—the value of 31,955 tons of timber imported from the s of Australasia. Western Australia took the largest share with l1; then followed New South Wales, with £32,427; and Victoria, £1,833. Any shipments from the other colonies were not rated. The house frames, fittings, and joiners' and cabinet work ostly furnished by the United States, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, ance.

impossible to say how much of the timber exports of other ies could be displaced in the United Kingdom by Australian ods and fancy timbers, but that the quantity is considerable be doubted. Importers there have taken the best kinds offering purposes they had in view, and it is for New South Wales to hat many of its species of trees produce superior woods to those sed for certain classes of work. In the British Isles, whose are so thickly studded with harbours, a vast quantity of timber for piers and jetties; and for this class of work, especially for Australian hardwoods are very well fitted as compared with the of other countries, having a much longer life. For other con-re outdoor work, both above and below ground, in which strength rability are desirable, for railway sleepers, and the paving of they are very suitable; while some of the hardwoods, such as untain ash, are fitted for the making of furniture. At the Exhibition the Commissioners for New South Wales Railways six sleepers, three of which had been taken out of the Suburban ter being in the road for twenty-four years, and three the Western line, near the Lithgow Zig Zag, which had the road for twenty-three years; and these sleepers were but o worse for wear. The Forest Department also exhibited rail-eepers, made of ironbark and red gum, which had stood the seventeen to twenty-five years' constant use. A portion of w South Wales Court was laid with wooden blocks of blue ackbutt, tallowwood, forest mahogany, boxwood, and ironbark, the suitability of these hardwoods for paving purposes. The of these woods for such purposes has been proved in Sydney, ks, after subjected to heavy and continuous traffic for nearly ten aving exhibited but slight wear. According to figures supplied City Surveyor of Sydney, the average wear of mahogany is an inch per annum; of blue and red gum $\frac{1}{16}$th of an inch; of ine $\frac{1}{17}$th; and of blackbutt, $\frac{1}{24}$th of an inch. Professor Warren, work on "Australian Timbers," states that he is continually being shown specimens of timber, taken from bridges or piles in damp ground, which have been in use for forty to sixty years or more, and show no signs of decay whatever.

It is estimated by the Forestry Department that the area of ironbark lands belonging to the Crown is 16,870,000 acres, on which there is sufficient timber ready for cutting to yield 167½ million sleepers, and that if private lands are also taken into account the number of ironbark sleepers alone which the colony can produce may be set down at 500 millions, sufficient for no less than a quarter of a million miles of railway track.

The following is a list of the best of the New South Wales hardwoods of which there is an abundant supply, and the purposes for which they are most suited:—

Bastard Mahogany.—This tree grows to a height of 40 to 50 feet, with a diameter of 2 feet. The timber is strong and durable, and is suitable for boat knees and the felloes of wheels.

Blackbutt.—A height of 100 to 200 feet is attained by this tree, and its diameter ranges from 3 to 8 feet. It has even been found measuring 15 feet across, but this width is exceptional. It gives a first-class wood, strong and durable, and suitable for house carpentry, bridge planking, paving blocks, ships' decks, and other purposes of a similar kind.

Blue Gum.—This tree reaches a height of 100 to 120 feet, with a diameter of 3 to 5 feet. The timber is strong and durable, straight in grain, and is easy to work. It is used in building construction and ship-building, and for ships' planks, wheel naves and felloes, paving blocks, etc. An inferior growth of the same tree is known under the name of *Flooded Gum.*

Forest Mahogany.—The height of this tree ranges from 60 to 120 feet, and its diameter from 3 to 5 feet. Its wood is red in colour, and is strong and durable. It is suitable for paving blocks, fencing, beams, rafters, and rough carpentry.

Grey Ironbark.—This tree, which grows to a height of 100 to 150 feet, with a diameter of 2 to 5 feet, gives one of the very best of hardwoods. It is hard, heavy, tough, inlocked, and durable. It is suitable for piles, girders of bridges, railway sleepers, poles and shafts of carriages, and other like purposes.

Mountain Ash.—This tree reaches a height of 100 to 150 feet, with a diameter of 3 to 4 feet. Its wood is tough, durable, and elastic; and it splits easily. The timber is suitable for staves of casks, shingles, poles, shafts of drays, palings, rails, rough buildings, and some classes of furniture.

Narrow-leaved Ironbark.—A height of 100 to 150 feet is attained by this tree, with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet. Its wood is hard, heavy, strong, interlocked, and durable; and is suitable for railway sleepers, girders, spokes of wheels, poles and shafts of carriages, etc.

rey Box.—This tree grows to mammoth size in the Southern districts he colony. The timber is strong, durable, and fairly straight- ned. It is used for paving blocks, posts, building purposes, ls, railway sleepers, etc.

ed Ironbark.—This eucalypt grows to a height of 100 to 150 feet, a diameter of 3 to 5 feet. Its wood is highly valued for all pur- s in which strength and durability are required. Large beams and ers, railway sleepers, and draw-poles, are some of the purposes for ch it is extensively used.

he or Pale Ironbark.—This tree attains a height similar to that of red ironbark, with a diameter of 4 to 5 feet. Its wood is highly reciated, being hard, tough, strong, inlocked, and durable. It is used ridge construction, and for railway carriages, poles of drays, spokes wheels, piles, beams, and other similar purposes.

Spotted Gum.—This eucalypt derives its vernacular name from the tted appearance of its bark. It grows to a height of 100 to 150 feet, h a diameter of 2 to 4 feet. The timber is strong, close-grained, stic, and durable; and it splits well. It is suitable for paving blocks, p and house building, girders, coopers' staves, cart and buggy fts, etc.

Stringybark.—The *Eucalyptus microrrhyncha*, or stringy-bark, grows a height of 50 to 100 feet, and a diameter of 24 to 54 inches. It s a light, hard, strong, and close-grained wood, which polishes well. se carpentry, flooring-boards, and fencing are some of the purposes r which it is most suited.

ellow-wood.—This tree, which grows to a height of 100 to 150 feet, h a diameter of 6 to 8 feet, gives a strong, durable, and handsome d, which shrinks less than most Australian hardwoods, and ly splits or shells. It is largely used for building purposes, especi- y for flooring; and for boat-building, piles, bridge-decking, and ing-blocks. The flooring of the fine new building of the Equitable fe Assurance Society of the United States, in Sydney, has been d in parquetry with this wood.

Turpentine.—A height of 150 to 200 feet, with a diameter of 3 to 5 , is attained by this tree, the timber of which is much valued for s, paving-blocks, posts, ship-building, girders, and other constructive poses, being strong, hard, heavy, and most difficult to n.

White Box.—This tree grows from 50 to 60 feet in height, with a meter of 20 to 40 inches. The timber is hard, tough, and durable, possesses great lateral strength. It is suitable for naves, felloes, ntlings, jetty, and bridge-piles, planking, fencing, etc.

oollybutt.—This eucalypt reaches 100 to 150 feet in height, with a meter of 3 to 5 feet. The timber, which is strong and durable, is able for house-building, wheelwrights' work, fencing, felloes, spokes, fts, etc.

Fair average values in Sydney of the hardwood timbers which been specified, are as follow :—

Kind of Timber.	Round piles: per running foot.		Girders: per cubic foot.		Scantling: per 100 sup. feet.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Bastard mahogany	1	4	1	6	9	0
Blackbutt	1	4	1	6	9	0
Blue gum	1	3	1	5	9	0
Forest mahogany	1	4	1	6	9	0
Gray ironbark	1	9	2	0	11	0
Mountain ash	1	6	1	9	10	0
Narrow-leaved ironbark	1	9	2	0	11	0
Red ironbark	1	9	2	0	11	0
She or pale ironbark	1	9	2	0	11	0
Spotted gum	1	3	1	5	8	6
Stringybark	1	3	1	6	8	6
Tallow-wood	1	6	1	10	10	0
Turpentine	1	3	1	6	9	0
White box	1	3	1	5	8	6
Woolly-butt	1	3	1	5	8	6

The cost of putting the timber on board vessels in Sydney is 9d 100 superficial feet, in addition to the prices quoted above. The fr from Sydney to London may be stated at 5s. to 6s. per 100 super feet for sailing vessels, and 8s. to 10s. for steamers. Wood-bloc timber is always shipped in full cut sizes, but in long lengths, say 1 25 feet, in order to prevent cracking and the extra expense of handl it can, therefore, only be quoted, as in the table above, at per superficial feet. Moreover, the size of the wooden blocks used by municipalities in England varies.

The softwoods of the colony are found chiefly in the brush fore the coast district, and rival those of any other part of the world. S of the least known of the brush forest trees have wood grained marked most beautifully, which is capable of receiving the highest po while others are fragrantly perfumed. These woods are adapted t finest description of cabinet meeting, and it is strange that their m should have so long escaped attention. Amongst the chief varieti woods of this class may be mentioned the red cedar, now unfortun disappearing, the beautiful wood of which, somewhat resem mahogany, is admirably adapted for the finer kinds of cabinet-ma work. Some of the cedar trees grow to immense size, as much as cubic feet of valuable timber having been obtained from one tree. addition to the cedar may be mentioned rosewood, tulipwood, ye wood, white maple, white beech, myall, marblewood, mock orange, re black bean, and many others. Besides their use for cabinet-making, many of the brush timbers are of great utility for the rougher kinds of carpentry, while some, both hard and soft woods, are admirably adapted for coach-builders' and coopers' work. The chief description of pine growing in New South Wales is the Moreton Bay white pine, found in the coast districts, as far south as the Bellinger. It is soft, light, and easily wrought, and suitable for all the interior woodwork of houses, as well as for cabinet-making. The red or black pine is extensively distributed over the Liverpool Plains, and in the Lachlan and Darling River districts, as well as around Berrima. It is beautifully marked in the grain, takes a fine polish, and has an agreeable fragrance. There are numerous other varieties of pine, but these resemble in their main features the trees already described. Colonial deal is an excellent timber, and is obtained in very large scantling, the tree frequently reaching 120 feet in height. It is soft, close-grained, easily wrought, and remarkably free from knots. Its use, therefore, is extensive for cabinet-makers' work and house fittings.

The beauty of colour and grain of many of these fancy timbers would, doubtless, cause them to be highly prized by furniture makers, if they were brought under their notice. Even if they could not be placed in London at the rates paid for the woods which are popular with cabinet-makers there at present, that would only be a slight drawback, as a large proportion of the British public are willing to pay a higher price for an article if they can thereby obtain something uncommonly beautiful. A description of some of the best of the soft and fancy woods of the colony, with their market values, etc., is given below in the same manner as the hardwoods have already been dealt with: —

Beech.—This tree, which attains a height of 100 to 150 feet, with a diameter of 3 to 5 feet, is one of the most useful of New South Wales trees, giving a strong, white, close-grained, and durable wood, which is easily worked, and is greatly valued for decks of vessels, flooring, turnery, and furniture making. It is very suitable for bedroom suites.

Blackbean.—This tree grows to a height of 120 to 130 feet, with a diameter of 4 to 5 feet. The wood is handsome, dark-coloured, close-grained, and durable. It greatly resembles walnut, and is equally suitable for cabinet-making. Very handsome gun-stocks have been made of this timber.

Black Oak.—This timber, which grows from 40 to 50 feet in length, with a diameter of 18 to 24 inches, is also suitable for cabinet-making. It is used in the colony for bullock yokes, mauls, tool handles, and shingles.

Blackwood reaches a height of 50 to 80 feet in New South Wales, with a diameter of 18 to 24 inches. Like blackbean, the timber greatly resembles walnut, and is one of the colony's most serviceable furniture woods. It is highly valued for all kinds of cabinet-work, billiard-tables, and carriage building.

Coachwood is a light, soft, fragrant, close-grained, and tough w
is suitable for coach and boat building, and for cabinet-work. It
to a height of 50 to 70 feet, with a diameter of 12 to 24 inches.

Colonial Pine reaches a height of 150 to 200 feet, with a diam
2 to 4 feet. The wood is pale in colour, and is strong and dur
kept continually dry or wet, but it soon decays if exposed alter
to dryness and dampness. It gives spars 80 to 100 feet long.

Common or White Pine varies in colour from light to dark bro
is a very durable, knotty wood, takes a good polish, and has an
of camphor. It is used for building purposes. The timber att
height of 60 to 70 feet, with a diameter of 18 to 24 inches.

Forest Oak is another valuable wood for cabinet-making. I
handsome timber, rather heavy. The tree grows to a height of
with a diameter of 2 feet.

Rosewood is one of the largest and best of the trees of the
It is a strong, close-grained, and durable timber, red in colour, an
scented, and is of the greatest value for all kinds of cabinet-w
would make an excellent substitute for mahogany, which is
used by English cabinet-makers. The tree reaches a height of
and its diameter is 4 to 6 feet.

Myall.—This tree grows to a height of 30 to 40 feet, with a d
of 18 to 20 inches. It is a hard, durable wood, and is greatly
for the manufacture of glove and handkerchief boxes, etc., h
perfume of violets when unpolished.

Tulip-wood, which grows to a height of 50 to 60 feet, is a
grained, hard, and firm timber. Its appearance is uncomm
attractive, being marked with irregular, longitudinal streaks of
and yellow, and it takes a fine polish. It would make handsom
of furniture.

Silky Oak.—The *Grevillea robusta*, which attains a height of
feet, is one of the most suitable woods of the colony for boud
bedroom suites. Its colour is a light grey, beautifully cross
silvery waves. It possesses a delicate lustre when polished.

Red Cedar. This is a beautiful wood, much valued for the manu
of furniture and for fittings of houses and ships. It is of a d
colour, and, although light and easily wrought, is very durable.
tree commonly grows to a height of 100 feet, with a diameter of
but it has been found 200 feet high, and of a diameter of 10 feet.

Yellow Cedar grows to a height of 50 to 60 feet, and a diam
2 to 3 feet. It is close-grained and durable, and polishes well.
timber is suitable for cabinets, carving, turning, and fancy work

Yellow-wood. The *[illegible]* attains a height
to 150 feet, with a diameter of 3 feet. The wood is yellowi
and fragrant; it is close-grained, easily wrought, and polish
is very suitable for cabinet-making.

l is another timber yellow in colour. It is soft and silky to lose-grained, and easily wrought. This wood is also suitable making, and is considered to be superior to the satinwood English furniture trade.

Vitæ.—This is another white beech. It is smaller in its pro- in the beech already described, and grows to a height of et, with a diameter of 2 feet. It is used for similar purposes. wing table shows the values in Sydney of the softwoods enu ove, cut in planks or flitches:—

d of Timber.	Per 100 sup. ft.	Kind of Timber.	Per 100 sup. ft.
	s. d.		s. d.
ean	22 6	Myall	35 0
oak	25 0	Tulip-wood	40 0
vood	30 0	Silky Oak	25 0
wood...........	22 6	Red cedar	30 0
al pine........	12 0	Yellow cedar	30 0
pine	14 0	Yellow-wood	25 0
oak...........	27 6	Satinwood	30 0
ood	15s. to 21s.	Lignum vitæ	24 0

EUCALYPTUS OIL.

e oil, which is extensively used for medicinal purposes and tures, is distilled from the leaves of the eucalyptus trees of nd Tasmania. The quantity of oil obtained varies according ies and the district in which it is found; but the percentage a few of the best known kinds may be set down as under:—

Eucalyptus	*amygdalina*..................	3·313 per cent.
,,	*oleosa*	1·250 ,,
,,	*leucoxylon*	1·060 ,,
,,	*goniocalyx*	0·914 ,,
,,	*globulus*	0·719 ,,

mygdalina and the *E. globulus* give the principal oils of com- e latter species takes kindly to foreign soil and climate, and ion has rendered habitable parts of countries which otherwise been hot-beds of fever. Algeria and California are formid- titors with Australia and Tasmania for the supply of the requirements of the world in the matter of eucalyptus oil. A of the exports of this article is only kept at Sydney. In 18 shipments from this port consisted of the following:—

Country.	Packages.	Value.
	No.	£
United Kingdom	74	286
Germany	52	219
Belgium	8	38
United States	1	3
Total	135	546

FISHERIES.

The seas that wash the shores of New South Wales abou fish, but none of the other resources of the colony have been so neglected as the fishing industry. Splendid fishing-grounds e along the whole length of the coast, which presents many m features peculiarly favourable to the existence of a very large sup the best food fishes. In the quiet waters of its numerous bay estuaries, and in the vast lakes and lagoons communicating wi sea, are found shelter and sustenance, as well as excellent bre grounds. The principal fishes found on the coast are not migr and as a consequence may nearly always be procured in the m It is unnecessary to dwell here on the value of the many food fis be found in the waters of the colony, as that has already been with in the chapter on "Fauna"; but it may be repeated that th Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods placed the number of edible species a With an unlimited supply, however, the fishing industry has lon in an unsatisfactory condition, and fish is, with few exceptions, and dear.

That there is no lack of a market for good fish in the colony m gathered from the fact that fresh, frozen, and preserved fish are im annually for local consumption to the value of nearly £89,000 st The imports, although showing an increase in 1896, are not now s as they were a few years ago, having diminished since 1889, wh quantity imported for home consumption was valued at £130,757. decline, however, cannot be attributed to any great increase supply of the local product, with a corresponding fall in the demanded, for the transactions of the Eastern Fish Market sh steady contraction until 1895, the latest year for which a record sales was kept. It is believed that the volume of business market was less in 1896 than in the previous year; but it is imp to say what is the extent of the fish supply of the metropolis for the City Corporation's market at Woolloomooloo show that wing quantities of the principal species were received there he four years ended 1895. Similar information for 1896 is not e :—

Kind.		1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
r	dozen	1,927	2,585	4,566	5,650
	,,	1,507	1,896	3,281	4,013
i	,,	703	491	953	569
	,,	12,681	5,031	8,671	11,393
	,,	3,010	2,931	9,021	*
	,,	5,036	6,895	17,894	17,675
	,,	1,162	409	1,095	1,193
d	,,	629	310	233	34
d Flounders	,,	1,592	1,244	1,808	1,184
	,,	23,145	8,761	19,155	39,839
	,,	3,766	5,131	5,241	4,620
	baskets	3,329	2,082	3,155	3,683
	,,	3,246	3,950	5,788	5,365

* Not stated.

e are two private markets in Sydney, and the business transacted seems to be increasing, while it is diminishing at the Corporation's . Fresh fish, however, does not seem to be much more plentiful n it was in former years, and it is little cheaper, its retail price placing it beyond the reach of the greater number of the people. ed fish has fallen in price ; but the reduction in the value of the has not been caused principally by this fact, but by the smaller y brought into the colony. The following table shows the imports or home consumption during the past eight years :—

Year.	Fresh and Frozen.	Preserved.	Total.
	£	£	£
1889	1,331	113,260	114,591
1890	2,830	99,101	101,931
1891	3,662	70,927	74,589
1892	4,065	69,951	74,016
1893	4,919	63,953	68,872
1894	3,016	42,727	45,743
1895	2,375	52,098	54,473
1896	4,869	83,870	88,739

ugh fresh fish is scarce, and there is a large import of the pre- rticle, a small quantity of fish drawn from the waters of the is annually exported, the amount sent away in 1896 being as

Fresh	£5,656
Frozen	38
Preserved	3
Total	£5,697

The control of the fisheries of the colony is placed in the
body of five unpaid Commissioners, who are appointed for a
years, and who, through their salaried inspectors and assistant
and other officers, supervise the fishing industry of the
that the regulations which they have issued in regard to the
of nets, the closing of tidal waters to net-fishing, and other
observed. The marine fisheries embrace three divisions—the
extending from the Tweed River southerly to Port Stephens;
division, from Port Stephens to St. George's Basin; and the
division, from St. George's Basin to Cape Howe. Each of
sions comprises many important grounds. The inland
very important, including chiefly the rivers Murray,
Lachlan, and Darling; and Lake George. Every fisherman
for a license yearly, the fee being 10s., which is reduced to
amount if the license is issued in the second half of the
license must also be taken out for every fishing-boat, the fee
which likewise is reduced by one-half if granted after the
Penalties are imposed by the Fisheries Acts for breaches of
tions of the Commissioners.

The number of fishing-boat licenses issued during the year
214, and the number of licenses granted to fishermen was
class of boat used for fishing purposes in New South Wales is
very little improvement is likely to result to the industry if
fishermen are left unaided with their primitive appliances,
a better class, provided with capital, are not induced to
industry.

The fees derived from the issue of the 1,109 licenses
amounted to £591. What the actual returns of the fishermen
is impossible to say. No record was kept in 1896 of the sum
at the Eastern Market at Woolloomooloo; but the sales at two
markets during that year amounted to £13,690. The great
fish came from the stations in the Home division, the largest
of baskets being obtained from Lake Macquarie, followed by
Harbour, the Tuggerah Lakes, Wollongong, and Botany.

For the purpose of oyster culture, the Crown grants leases of
shores of tidal waters, which may be defined as between the
and mean low water mark. The rental is 20s. per annum for
linear yards. The maximum length for which a lease may be
is 2,000 yards; but as the same person may take out more
lease, the portion of shore which may be acquired is
restricted by the Oyster Fisheries Act. The lease may be
term of twelve months, with right of renewal from year to year
a longer period, not exceeding fifteen years, renewable from
on the application of the lessee during the twelfth year of
leases of deepwater or natural oyster beds are also granted for
not exceeding 25 acres, at a rental which must not be less
acre. During the year 1896, 241 applications for leases of

to 1,000 yards, representing a total area of 68,806 yards, were made ; le, at the end of the year, the existing leases numbered 368, and the gth of foreshore held was 134,500 yards. The deposits paid with the plications for leases amounted to £677, while the rentals received from sed areas came to £1,346 during the year.

Owing to bad management, the oyster-beds of Port Jackson, Port phens, the Hawkesbury, and the Shoalhaven were greatly injured, so at the markets of Sydney have to depend upon the beds of the anning, the Richmond, and other northern rivers, as well as places yond the colony, for their supply of oysters. The appointment of Fisheries Commission in 1880 probably prevented the entire extinc- n of the oyster industry in New South Wales, though the operations the Commission have been much impeded through lack of sufficient islation to enable them to check the improvidence of the lessees, who, th few exceptions, strip the oyster-beds without regard to future pply. There is but little doubt that the establishment of "parcs" e those which may be seen along the coasts of France and Belgium, ere oyster culture is conducted on scientific principles, would be munerative, as the demand for this delicacy is great, and continually creasing.

During the year 1896, 12,287 bags of oysters were obtained from the al waters of the colony, being a satisfactory increase on the takes of vious years. The localities from which the supply was obtained in 96 were as under :—

Locality.	Bags.	Locality.	Bags.
Wallis Lake........	1,859	Tweed River.	573
Clyde River............ ...	1,704	Hastings River	481
Hawkesbury River.....	1,488	Evans River......... ...	454
Hunter River............	1,231	Bellinger River...... ...	322
Manning River..........	1,205	Other places................	585
Port Stephens...........	1,136		
Camden Haven..........	669	Total	12,287
Richmond River	580		

In addition to the above supply, 5,629 bags of oysters were imported m other colonies, their value being set down at £6,123. Of this ntity, 3,276 bags came from Queensland, and 2,060 from New aland. A bag of oysters contains 3 bushels, and at the beginning of 97 the price per bag of good oysters in Sydney ranged from 25s. to s.

The number of persons convicted in 1896 under the Fisheries and ster Fisheries Acts was forty-three, the penalties imposed by the magistrates amounting to £95 15s. Below will be found a s of the offences of which these persons were proved to have i with the total amount of fines imposed for each class :—

Offence.	Persons.	Fin	
	No.	£	s.
Using illegal nets	2	4	0
Fishing in closed waters	12	32	0
Fishing without license	5	—	
Selling undersized fish	2	2	10
Stalling	8	14	0
Removing oysters from Reserve	2	10	0
Taking oysters from Lease	2	5	3
Removing oysters without notice	1	2	0
Not marking Lease	2	2	0
Not informing shipment of oysters	1	1	0
Abusive language to Inspector	2	*	0
Taking oysters after sunset	2	15	0
Unbranded bags	2	2	0
Total	43	95	15

* Cautioned.

The unsatisfactory condition of the fishing industry of the on several occasions occupied the serious attention of Parli of the Government of the day. The latest effort to place it on which it may be built up to the large proportions to whi properly to attain was the appointment of a Royal Commissi for the purpose of reporting on the best means to carry out in view. This body heard a great deal of evidence on the st industry, and visited several of the other colonies in order t sonally what had been and was being done in regard to th As a result, they recommended in their report, which was pı Parliament in June, 1895 that further legislation should be the purpose of regulating the industry ; a systematic explorat coast made in a properly equipped trawling vessel, to dete capabilities of the deep sea fisheries ; live fish transmitted by means of well boats ; refrigerating cars adopted for trans fish by rail ; a central fish market erected near Darling Railway Terminus, with urban and suburban auxiliary ma middleman abolished, and authority given to fishermen to own fish ; fish carts substituted for the present system of with basket and barrow ; and other proposals of an important carried out. Towards the close of 1896 a Government Bi better regulation of the fisheries and the fishing industry wa and presented to Parliament, but lack of time prevented from dealing with it.

The Whale Fisheries.

At a time when efforts are being made to revive the whale fishery, it is interesting to trace the history of what was in the early days regarded by many as likely to become the staple industry of the colony. In the year 1791, three ships are recorded as having sailed from Sydney Harbour for "the fishery." These were all convict transports, one of which, the Britannia, a vessel belonging to the whaling firm of Samuel Enderby and Sons, is said to have been the first ship to pursue the fishery on the Australian coast. In 1793, Enderby joined the British Government in the expense of fitting out a ship to undertake a voyage to the South Seas, with a view to extend the whale fishery there; and in the following year the ships of this enterprising speculator were actively engaged in whaling off the coast of New Zealand. It was the custom of ships, such, for instance, as those owned by Campbell, one of the earliest of Australia's merchants, to import teas and sugars from Bengal, and British manufactures from England, such as cotton and woollen goods, hats, and other articles, and to obtain a return cargo of oil and skins; although the oil export was relinquished subsequently on account of the duty imposed on its importation into England. The whale fishery was particularly flourishing during the first years of the colony's settlement, and it afforded employment to a considerable number of persons. In 1802, ships were again despatched to pursue the whaling industry off the coast of New Zealand; but according to the evidence of Mr. Campbell, given in 1812, the oil-fishery in Australian waters was then entirely stopped, as the duty and the heavy freights prevented its importation into England, and colonial vessels were not allowed to navigate beyond the limits of the territory. The sealing industry was, however, continuously pursued. In 1823, the firm of Enderby and Sons fitted out a ship to prosecute the fishery off the Seychelle Islands, and the southern branch of the industry experienced a decided revival.

Up to this time no sperm oil had arrived in England save that imported in the ships engaged in the actual fishery of the animal, but in 1823 entries were made in the English Custom-house of sperm oil imported from the colonies, chiefly from Sydney, although the whole quantity so introduced was only 6,083 tuns, the colonial oil being partly the produce of vessels fitted out for the trade from Sydney and Van Diemen's Land. In all probability this oil was that obtained from the black, or right whale, the breeding-grounds of which animal were to be found in Cook's Straits, where what in whaling parlance were termed "shore parties" established themselves for the purpose of killing the whale, the produce of which was sent on to Sydney. The value of the trade in whale oil may be appreciated from the fact that during the year 1827 the total quantity imported into England was 5,552 tuns; and in 1828 the total produce of the New South Wales fisheries alone was 298 tuns of sperm oil, 50 tuns of black oil, 118 tuns of the oil of the sea-elephant,

and 7,647 sealskins. The English import fluctuated consi
but reached its maximum in 1831, when it was recorded a
tuns.

In 1829 a certain William Sutton went to Portland Bay, an
lished himself at Whaler's Point, where, during the next few y
founded a whaling-station, and engaged also in sealing. Here,
Hentys came; while the industry had been carried on in Tasma
1816, Frederick Henry Bay being the first fishing-ground in that
In 1830, no less than seventeen ships belonging to Port Jack
engaged in whaling, a number which had grown to 35 in 1833,
1834 to 40, the largest of which was of 365 tons, and the sm
80 tons burthen. In the first years of the colony's history th
and black oil fisheries, particularly the former, presented a fair
the investment of capital on a large scale; but by this time t
embarked in the industry were so considerable that further en
had little encouragement. Moreover, the immediate returns we
precarious a character, and the risks and losses so serious, that a
and steady return for capital invested could not be expect
speculators preferred to put their money into squatting pursuit
value of the whale fishery to Australia in 1834 may be seen fr
fact that while the vessels sailing from Sydney numbered 40, t
number engaged from English ports in whaling in all parts of th
was 90, of from 300 to 400 tons burthen. In 1839, no less tha
tuns of black oil, valued at £41,341, were exported, principally t
Britain; and 1,279 tuns of sperm oil, valued at £111,280. In
the importation of sperm oil into Great Britain was 5,722 t
which quantity 1,719 tuns were from Australia, exceeding sligh
importation from America, which was 1,717 tuns, but the latter
pay the high duty on foreign "take" of £24 10s. per tun. The
tion of the duty on the importation into the United Kingdom of
whale oil is said, however, to have destroyed the southern whale
as far as England itself was concerned; the number of ships fitted
British ports being in 1841, nineteen; in 1842, eleven; and in
only two, while seven whalers were laid up in port, six we
out of the trade, and eight were offered for sale. Ships continue
sent forth from Australian ports, however, and about this ti
Benjamin Boyd, whose career in New South Wales was so inte
and whose death was so tragic, established a whaling-station at T
Bay, at a depôt named, after himself, Boyd Town, whence, fo
years, vessels were despatched to the southern whaling-grounds,
pursuit actively prosecuted.

The colonists of Western Australia had also engaged in the
fishery, but they appear to have been so successfully competed
by the superiorly-equipped Americans, who established a per
station at Port Leschenault, that they relinquished the industry
practice of Australian whalers of killing the calves, in order to se
capture of the mothers, did great damage to the fishery by wa

ing out the product, and in 1843 the animal was remarked as aing somewhat shy and scarce in southern seas. By the year 1847, the industry had died out entirely in Tasmania, it was noted it was likewise declining in southern waters generally, and that ralian shipping was engaging more exclusively in colonial trade, ugh many craft were still at work in whaling on different parts of coast; and the "take" for years afterwards comprised an export uch value. In 1850 this amounted to 576 tuns of sperm and 16 of black oil, and nearly 14 tons of whalebone, together of a total of about £29,000; while during the following year the export 588½ tuns of sperm and 13 tuns of black oil, and nearly 67 tons halebone, together of a value of close upon £26,000. The value e total quantity of whale oil exported from New South Wales been estimated at about £3,000,000, and from Tasmania at about 00,000.

rly in the fifties the whaling industry gravitated to New Zealand, h was found to be central to the fisheries in the South Seas, and a enient position for the establishment of "shore" parties. Indeed, is day it is usual for old whalers to animadvert on the New Zealand od of securing the cretacean as having, more than anything else, uced to the extinction of the animal. The New Zealand fishery initiated by Captain Eames, from Auckland Harbour, early in the 1852; but the decline in the industry was henceforward very rapid. 850 there were upwards of four hundred whaling vessels in the nern Ocean alone; while in 1872 there were but seventy-two ships in iddle ground. In fact, the fishery totally died out; but of late years s again attracted attention, and a small number of vessels prosecute ndustry during the season.

MINES AND MINERALS.

THE progress of the Colony during the first sixty years of its
viewed in the light of later events, seems painfully sl
somewhat uncertain. Yet the earlier colonists must have been co
of the vast heritage destined to become the fortune of Austra
on no other supposition can their sacrifices and exertions be unde
To the nations of the Old World this was practically an unknow
and it was not till the story of the gold discoveries was noised
that the importance and possible future of Australia were in a
realised.

Gold-mining was for but a brief period the leading industry o
colonies, even in the wonderful years that succeeded the me
discovery of Hargraves. Now, amongst the minerals obtained i
South Wales, it yields in importance to silver, and in some years t
whilst compared with that of pastoral and agricultural produce the
of gold procured is inconsiderable. The discovery of gold, nevert
made Australia a nation, for the current of immigration which set
ward on the presence of the precious metal becoming known has
ceased. Thousands of men in the prime of life, who had been att
to these shores by the hope of fortune easily acquired on the fi
the Turon and Bendigo, seeing patient industry everywhere rew
remained to share the general prosperity, and those who came to
gold readily turned their attention to their former, but less ex
pursuits.

Although the settlement of New South Wales has not been affe
the discovery of gold to the same extent as that of Victoria, yet the n
of persons engaged in actual search for the precious metal was at o
considerable. This number, however, has gradually decreased as th
have been despoiled of the treasures contained in their easily
alluvial deposits. The abandonment of a gold-field is not, of course,
a loss to the country. After the excitement has died out, the digger
room for the agriculturist, and resources of a more permanent ch
are developed in parts of the colony which but for the prospecto
have been unknown, and but for the farmer would have rema
wilderness. Gold-mining now requires the expenditure of capital
erection of plant and gold-saving machinery; and the miner whos
in-trade of gold-digging appliances consisted solely of a pick, a

in dish, has had, in the great majority of instances, to seek other of labour. Still, the mining industry of the colony is in a ing condition, and maintains in employment a fair proportion of ple. Many of the gold-miners have turned their attention to the copper, and tin mines, and the coal and shale mines also find tion for large numbers.

MINING ON CROWN LANDS.

iner's right is issued for a period of one year or of six months ny date, the fee payable being 5s. and 2s. 6d. respectively. It to the holder the privilege of entering upon Crown lands and for gold or any other mineral ; of occupying a residence area of ter of an acre ; of diverting and using water for mining and tic purposes ; and of using, for mining or building purposes, timber, stone, and gravel if these are not on exempted or reserved lands, or the operation of a prohibitory proclamation. In searching for he holder of a miner's right may mark off on alluvial ground a cting protection area ranging from 600 feet long by 1,200 feet wide 00 feet long by 2,800 feet wide, according to the distance from the t protection area or mining tenement producing gold ; and when le gold is struck he is entitled to take up, as a reward for his ery, a prospecting claim half the length and a quarter of the of the protection area. Other forms of occupation of alluvial l under miner's right are block claims, frontage areas and claims, led alluvial claims, and river and creek claims, all of which are ed by special regulations. In quartz country the prospecting pro- area cannot exceed a width of 400 feet ; but the length ranges 80 to 960 feet according to the distance from the nearest mining ent producing gold. The claim which may be marked off when le gold is discovered is half the length and the full width of the tion area. Ordinary and extended quartz claims may also be up under miner's right ; and special regulations govern water- residence areas, and machinery areas, the last-mentioned nting 2 acres of land to which a person erecting quartz-crushing r machinery for extracting gold becomes entitled. Special leases ensed areas may also be granted for gold-mining purposes where l difficulties exist in working the ground ; but in any such case aximum area cannot exceed 100 acres. The number of miners' issued during 1896 was 27,278, and the revenue derived there- mounted to £10,147.

s only the holder of a miner's right who may take out a ining lease. The area for which an ordinary lease is granted from 1 to 25 acres, or less than 1 acre by conversion of a mining nt ; and the term for which it may be taken out ranges from fifteen years. The annual rent payable is fixed at £1 per acre ion thereof ; and when application is made for the lease, the first

year's rent must be paid, together with a survey fee ranging in an
from £1 for 1 acre to £3 10s. for 20 to 25 acres. One man mu
employed for every 2 acres of ground taken up. No assign
mortgage, sub-lease, or encumbrance can be made in connection w
gold-mining lease unless with the sanction of the Secretary for M
The holder of a miner's right or of a lease under the Act of 1874
apply for a permit to mine for gold or for any other mineral u
roads, streets, navigable waters, or commons or reserves. The
payable under an authority to mine for gold is 10s. per acre per an
but in the case of small areas, the holding of miners' rights m
imposed as a condition instead of the payment of rent. A perm
search for gold on a residential lease on a gold-field may be gran
the lessee thereof, or to any person other than the lessee, provid
be the holder of a miner's right. Business licenses, operating
gold-fields, are granted at the rate of 20s. per annum, or 10s. f
months from date of issue. They entitle the holder to the occup
for the purpose of residence or of carrying on business, of one-q
of an acre in township sites, or of 1 acre on other Crown
Within twenty-eight clear days after the issue of the certificate of
ditional registration, improvements in buildings must be made t
value of £10, otherwise the area taken up is deemed to be aband
During the year 1896 there were issued 2,285 business licenses, th
therefrom amounting to £1,172.

Before the close of the year 1896, when an Amending Act
passed, a miner's right could not be used in connection with the s
for and the winning of minerals other than gold, the equiv
authority being termed a mineral license. Now, a miner's right co
on the holder all the rights and benefits secured by a mineral li
and the fee payable for the latter, which was formerly 20s. fo
year, has been reduced to 5s. for twelve months and 2s. 6d. fo
months, as in the case of a miner's right. For the purpose of sear
for opal, the holder of a miner's right or a mineral license is perm
to take possession of and to occupy 400 by 400 feet of Crown l
and for other minerals an area of 40 acres; but the area which m
occupied for the purpose of mining for and winning minerals is
less, being 100 feet by 100 feet in the case of opal, and 4 acres i
case of other minerals. A mineral prospecting area is the term a
to land occupied in searching for minerals, and a mineral claim
applied to land occupied in mining for and winning minerals. F
purpose of searching for coal, the holders of sixteen miners' rig
mineral licenses may conjointly take possession of not more tha
acres as one mineral prospecting area; and for any other minera
coal, gold, or opal, the holders of two rights or licenses may
possession of not more than 80 acres. The extent of land whic
be taken possession of conjointly as a mineral claim is not mor
12 acres, by the holders of three miners' rights or mineral licen
the case of minerals other than coal, gold, or opal; and not mor

200 feet by 200 feet, by the holders of four miners' rights or mineral licenses, in the case of opal. Within twenty-eight days of the discovery of opal, the occupier of a prospecting area must mark off and occupy a mineral claim 200 feet by 200 feet, which must be worked by not less than two men. In the case of other minerals, application must be made within thirty days of discovery for the conversion of the prospecting area into a mineral leasehold. A holder of a mineral license is allowed to occupy, for the purpose of residence, a piece of land not exceeding in extent a quarter of an acre, and is entitled to the use of water under certain conditions. In the course of the year 1896, 1,298 mineral licenses were issued, the revenue derivable therefrom being £799.

A mineral lease is granted for the purpose of mining for any other mineral than gold, and it is not necessary that the applicant for such should be the holder of a miner's right or a mineral license. In the case of coal the minimum area which may be leased, unless with the special consent of the Secretary for Mines, is 40 acres, and the maximum 640 acres; for other minerals the area may not be more than 80 acres, nor less than 20 acres, except, as in the case of coal, with the sanction of the Minister; but there is nothing to prevent a person holding more than one lease. The term for which a lease may be granted ranges from one to twenty years, and the annual rent, which is payable in advance, is at the rate of 5s. per acre. Coal-mining leases carry a royalty of 6d. per ton upon all coal raised, the rent being payable until the amount is exceeded by the royalty, when the latter only becomes payable. Reserved lands may be leased subject to the same conditions as Crown lands, unless the mineral sought is coal, in which case the annual rental is fixed at 2s. per acre if the surface of the land or any part of it is required, 1s. 6d. per acre where no surface is required, and 1s. per acre if wholly under water. The royalty payable, however, is the same as that charged in leases of Crown lands. The labour conditions of the leases mentioned are proposed by the applicant, and are subject to approval by the Secretary for Mines. All dealings in connection with these leases are the same as in gold-mining leases. The holder of a miner's right, or of a lease under the Act of 1874, may be granted an authority to mine for minerals under roads, streets, navigable waters, or commons or reserves. For coal the rent is 2s. per acre per annum, with a royalty of 6d. per ton of large coal and 3d. per ton of small coal. If the royalty exceeds the rent, then the former only is payable. In the case of other minerals except gold, the royalty payable is at the rate of 5 per cent. on the value, with a rent similar to that charged for coal lands. In the case of small areas the holding of a mineral license may be imposed as a condition in lieu of payment of rent.

At the close of the year 1896, the area held under lease to mine or gold was 12,906 acres, and for other minerals 62,033 acres, making total of 74,939 acres of Crown lands held under mining lease. Under pplication to lease, the area of auriferous Crown lands held was

5,128 acres, and of lands upon which other minerals were bein 3,531 acres, giving a total of 8,659 acres of Crown lands be application to lease.

MINING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

Certain of the Crown lands of the colony have been aliena time to time, subject to various reservations with respect to other minerals which might afterwards be found therein. Oth again, have been alienated without any such reservation; but the established law of England that the right to the royal m does not pass from the Crown unless by express conveyanc alienated lands has the precious metal remained the propert State. Under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 owners of lands under that Act, or under any Act thereby repealed, and in r which the right to minerals was reserved by the Crown, were permits to remove such minerals, subject to the payment of and under the Mining Act of 1889 authorities might be issue person to dig and search for gold and other minerals on all lan after the commencement of the Act, might be sold conditio auction, in virtue of improvements, or otherwise, and upon a which had been or should thereafter be leased conditionally u Crown Lands Act of 1884; and in the event of these lands bei to contain gold or other minerals, provision was made for the can of the sale or lease. The Mining on Private Lands Act, w passed in June, 1894, provided, however, for the conversion int leases of all permits of this kind which had been granted to o private lands for the purpose of removing gold, silver, lead, antimony, provided application was made within two month passing of the Act; and in all cases where a special lease was so payment of royalty ceased. But in respect to all other mine payment of royalty by owners of private lands, as reserved in mits granted under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the issue searching permits under the Mining Act of 1889, were al stand. To gold-mining, all lands alienated or in process of al are, of course, open; but to mining for the other metals, on lands in respect to which the rights are expressly reserved in th grants. The surface of lands enclosed and under cultivation i with the consent of the owner, exempt from the provisions of but leases of such lands below the surface, at such depths as sufficient to protect the surface from damage, may be granted. within the boundaries of any town or village are exempt proclaimed by the Governor to come within the operatio Act. Crown lands held under certain forms of lease, or for various public purposes, also come within the scope of the special proclamation to that effect be issued.

The holder of a miner's right or a mineral license may o authority, for a term not exceeding twelve months, but renewab cretion of the warden, permitting him to enter upon private lands for the purpose of prospecting for gold, silver, lead, tin, or antimony. The area is defined by the warden, having regard to the nature of the deposit to be sought for, and mining operations may be carried on subject to the payment of rent and compensation fixed by the warden. The rent is payable quarterly in advance. The area must not exceed 20 acres in the case of ordinary auriferous lands, nor 40 acres where the natural conditions will render mining operations difficult and costly; while for other minerals the maximum area is 80 acres. These authorities may be converted into leases, the rent payable being £1 per acre per annum. The term of the lease cannot exceed 20 years, but subject to certain conditions renewal for a similar period may be obtained. In gold-mining one man must be employed for every 5 acres; and in mining for silver, lead, tin, and antimony, one man for every 10 acres. Owners of private lands may obtain special leases for mining purposes without payment of rent. They are also privileged to enter into agreements with holders of miners' rights or mineral licenses for the latter to take possession of the land for mining purposes as if it were Crown land. In such cases it is not necessary to take out a lease under the Act; but the land must be held and worked subject to the regulations of the Mining Board in force for the time being. Subject to the approval of the Secretary for Mines, owners may also make agreements with respect to lands other than alluvial auriferous, or grant leases of the same, the area and labour conditions being similar to those fixed and imposed in connection with other leases granted under this Act. Every agreement or lease of this kind must be registered within fourteen days. A prospecting license may be issued to the holder of a miner's right empowering him to enter upon any private lands open to gold-mining, and not otherwise utilised under the Act, for the purpose of digging and searching for gold. Before mining operations are begun a deposit must be paid to cover any damage which may be caused to the surface of the ground. If payable alluvial gold is discovered the land may be resumed by the State, the discoverer having a preferent right to a prospecting claim. The Crown has also the power to resume land containing auriferous quartz veins, provided the consent of the owner be obtained; and the prospector who discovered the vein may apply for lease.

At the close of the year 1896, the area of private lands held under e was 6,160 acres, while other 6,616 acres were held under applion to lease. On the same date, permits to mine for gold on 162 es of reserved lands were in existence, while the area of reserved ds held under permits to mine for other minerals was 22,834 acres.

Miners Employed and Production.

he following table gives the approximate number of persons actually aged in the principal departments of mining during each of the past

seven years. The figures are given on the authority of the retur
the Mines Department:—

Minerals.	Miners employed at end of each year.					
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Gold	12,589	11,166	9,049	11,957	17,207	21,434
Silver and silver-lead	5,806	7,645	5,889	4,709	4,208	4,658
Copper	716	481	500	283	645	868
Tin	2,172	1,951	1,657	2,024	1,542	1,399
Coal	10,469	10,820	10,514	10,028	9,131	9,022
Shale	189	260	396	385	297	354
Other minerals	868	185	237	736	486	564
Total	32,809	32,508	28,242	30,122	33,516	38,299

The value of mining machinery may be set down at £2,834
Of this, £1,126,855 represents the value of machinery and plant us
connection with coal and shale mines, £954,300 the machinery
ployed on the silver-fields, £693,198 that on the gold-fields, and £60
that on other mineral fields, principally copper and tin.

The summary given below shows the value of the production o
various minerals since their first discovery, as well as the valu
minerals won in the year 1896:—

Minerals.	Value.	
	During 1896.	To end of 1896.
	£	£
Gold	1,073,360	43,399,958
Silver and silver-lead	1,785,451	22,410,046
Coal	1,125,281	31,819,331
Shale	34,202	1,795,213
Coke	21,851	184,449
Tin	68,546	6,196,518
Copper	197,814	4,068,169
Antimony	1,834	183,399
Bismuth	490	38,212
Lead (pig)	259	15,970
Oxide of iron	801	6,861
Sundry minerals	44,799	253,878
Total value £	4,354,688	110,372,004

It will be seen that the colony has produced various minera
the total value of one hundred and ten millions sterling. In conne
with this estimate of production, it may be explained that the fi
relating to tin and copper differ from those appearing in the rep
the Department of Mines. The ores of these metals are import
large quantities to be smelted, and the refined copper and tin
production of this smelting, are usually exported as domestic pr

ppear as such in the mining returns. This, of course, is an Also, from the heading "Sundry Minerals" some of the items, limestone flux and building stones, which have been included report of the Mines Department, have been rejected in preparing ove return.

METALLIC MINERALS—GOLD.

ongst the metallic minerals found in the colony, gold occupies a st place, both on account of the quantity which has been and is eing raised, and of the influence which the discovery of the royal has had on the settlement of the country. The date of the discovery d in New South Wales was for a long time the theme of much versy, and the question as to the original discoverer was long dis- It is now agreed, however, that the existence of gold was known authorities during the early days when the colony was a convict ment, but for obvious State reasons the matter remained secret. st authentic record of the discovery is contained in an extract Assistant Surveyor James McBrian's Field-book, bearing date February, 1823, in which the following note appears:—"At ns 50 links to river, and marked gum-tree—at this place I found ous particles of gold in the sand and in the hills convenient to ver." The river referred to is the Fish River, at about 15 miles Bathurst, not far from the spot to which the first gold-rush was twenty-eight years afterwards.

1839, Count Strzelecki found gold in the Vale of Clwydd, and unicated the discovery to Governor Gipps; but he was requested p the matter secret, lest the knowledge of the existence of gold imperil the safety and discipline of the settlement. The Rev. Clarke also found gold in 1841, in the Macquarie Valley and ale of Clwydd, and expressed his belief that the precious metal be found abundantly dispersed throughout the territory. But it ot until the year 1851 that payable deposits were proved to exist w South Wales, and this important discovery was due to Mr. E. mond Hargraves, who, on his return some time previously from rnia, pointed out to the Government the localities in which he had payable deposits of alluvial gold, viz., at Lewis Ponds and Summer Creek, in the districts of Bathurst and Wellington. Prospecting tions followed in the neighbourhood, with the result of which one is now familiar. A few weeks later, rich deposits were dis- ed at Ballarat, Mount Alexander, and other gold-fields in Victoria; he world witnessed a gold-rush from all parts of the earth to these es, similar to that which some years before had taken place to ornia.

tive gold is the only true mineral species of gold which has so far found in New South Wales, and was first met with in easily worked ial deposits. These diggings have always attracted the greater er of miners, as the precious metal is obtained without costly

appliances ; but however rich they may be, alluvial deposits
soon worked out, their area generally being of limited ext
such deposits gold is found associated with a variety of mine
is found in the shape of grains and nuggets, water-worn in ap
and sometimes of considerable size. Though New South Wale
yielded nuggets of such an extraordinary size as those foun
neighbouring colony of Victoria, yet some splendid specimens
gold formation have been unearthed at various times. Thus
1851, a mass of gold was found on the Turon River gold-fiel
weighed 106 lb., or 1,272 oz. This, however, though called a "
was really a piece of reef gold. In November, 1858, at Bur
near Orange, another nugget was found, which when melted at th
Mint gave 1,182 oz. 6 dwt. of pure gold, of the value of £4,38
A third nugget, called the Brennan, was sold in Sydney in
£1,156. In 1880 and 1882, several nuggets which were une
Temora weighed from 59 to 139 oz. ; and in 1887 nuggets w
by fossickers in various parts of the country, four of which,
respectively 357 oz., 200 oz., 47 oz., and 32 oz., were obt
Hargraves, and another, weighing 30 oz., at Limestone Cre
Jubilee nugget, weighing 344 oz., was also discovered in that
Maitland Bar, in the Mudgee District, and was worth about £

Although the alluvial deposits discovered in the early days h
practically abandoned and are considered to be worked out, there
evidence that the surface of the country has been merely s
The search for gold has been vigorously prosecuted for m
forty-five years and still new gold-fields and fresh deposits a
discovered—in localities, too, supposed to have been th
examined. The gold formation is very widely diffused throu
colony, as may be gathered from the fact that the fields of
Delegate, and Ballina are between 600 and 700 miles distant fr
other; and it has been estimated that the extent of country c
formations in association with which gold always occurs, exceed
square miles, whilst the precious metal has also been found in fo
where its presence was never suspected. A considerable portio
area, equal to nearly one-fourth of the whole surface of the col
never been touched by the pick of the miner.

Gold is also found in quartz-veins, occurring in older and meta
rocks, such as argillaceous slates, chloritic and talcose schists
as granite, diorite, serpentine, and porphyry. Vein gold is a
more commonly with iron pyrites, though found with copp
zinc, and silver ores, and also in asbestos. But the extra
gold from quartz-veins requires the erection of extensive machi
gold-saving appliances, involving an outlay of capital such
ordinary miner seldom possesses. Quartz-mining is generall
on by companies.

Gold has been found in conglomerates in the Coal Mea
Tallawang, and in Carboniferous strata. The Rev. W. B

d it in the Hawkesbury sandstone formation, on the north side ney Harbour, and he also mentions that it is distributed through nd at the mouth of the Richmond River. These auriferous beach have of late years given employment to several hundred men. the southern part of the coast of the colony, it has been found he shore, in the sand washed by the waves of the Pacific Ocean; as Bermagui, and in the district extending between Moruya den, important discoveries have also been made. It would be ible to name every part of the province in which gold is found, precious metal appears throughout the greater part of the territed there is ample evidence that there exist deposits which will the prospector or the miner a profitable field of employment for years to come.

w will be found the quantity and value of the gold received for at the Mint, and exported during each year, since 1851. The y of gold, the produce of New South Wales, received at the Mint for coinage in 1896, amounted to 203,337 oz., of the gross f £759,853, the average price being nearly £3 14s. 9d. per oz. ld exported during the year without passing through the Mint ted to 92,735 oz., valued at £313,507.

Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
oz.	£		oz.	£
144,120	468,336	1875	230,882	877,694
818,751	2,660,946	1876	167,411	613,190
548,052	1,781,172	1877	124,110	471,418
237,910	773,209	1878	119,665	430,033
171,367	654,594	1879	109,649	407,219
184,600	689,174	1880	118,600	441,543
175,949	674,477	1881	149,627	566,513
286,798	1,104,175	1882	140,469	526,522
329,363	1,259,127	1883	123,805	458,509
384,053	1,465,373	1884	107,198	395,292
465,685	1,806,171	1885	103,736	378,665
640,622	2,467,780	1886	101,416	366,294
466,111	1,796,170	1887	110,288	394,579
340,267	1,304,926	1888	87,503	317,100
320,316	1,231,243	1889	119,759	434,070
290,014	1,116,404	1890	127,760	460,285
271,886	1,053,578	1891	153,336	558,306
255,662	994,665	1892	156,870	569,178
251,491	974,149	1893	179,288	651,286
240,858	931,016	1894	324,787	1,156,717
323,609	1,250,485	1895	360,165	1,315,929
425,129	1,643,582	1896	296,072	1,073,360
361,784	1,395,175			
270,823	1,040,329	Total	11,717,616	43,399,958

ill be seen that the production of gold in 1896, although not so in 1894 and 1895, exceeded that of any other year since 1873.

It is a well-known fact that in years of prosperity and easily-ob employment persons are attracted from gold-mining to other pı which offer fewer chances of accumulaing rapid fortunes, but st employment and more security against loss, while the stoppage employment forces people to turn to mining. The depression in which has existed during the past few years has, therefore, h effect of largely increasing the number of seekers after gold, m the unemployed having been supplied by the Government with rights and with railway passes to take them to likely spots where could be made by fossicking, on condition that the cost sho afterwards refunded when the men were in a position to pay the A large number of applications have been made by the relativ mates of these men for assistance to join their friends, showing any rate many of those originally sent fossicking have found su inducement to remain on the fields.. The fees derived from the miners' rights have, also, almost doubled since 1893, and it appear that many men who in the first instance were granted rig credit have been enabled to pay for them or for their renewal.

In other directions much enterprise has been shown during t few years in the search for gold, and quartz reefs have been ope in many parts with profitable results. Old workings, which ha abandoned years before, under an impression that they were va only on the surface, and which had scarcely, in any instance, been to a greater depth than 200 feet, have been reopened with very e aging results, and quartz-mining is becoming more and more a perm industry, the yield from that source being now almost four ti great as it was six years ago. On the other hand, the numl men engaged in alluvial mining and the returns therefrom sho tendency to increase until the past three years, when a large num fossickers gave a fillip to this branch of gold-mining. The foll table shows the number of men employed in alluvial and in q mining, with the production from each branch of the industry, sin year 1888. All the men employed in quartz-mining were Europea on alluvial fields 710 Chinese found occupation in 1896 :—

Year	Number of Miners.		Production.	
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Alluvial.	Quartz.
	No.	No.	oz.	oz.
1888	4,368	3,910	43,965	43,598
1889	5,623	4,569	39,412	80,347
1890	6,304	6,285	63,879	63,881
1891	4,748	6,418	50,713	102,623
1892	4,030	5,019	35,024	121,846
1893	6,401	5,556	55,336	123,952
1894	8,742	8,465	93,742	231,045
1895	11,331	10,166	81,645	278,520
1896	10,138	12,089	68,534	227,538

principal seats of alluvial gold-mining are the Bathurst and
districts, and the country watered by the various feeders
Upper Lachlan, and also in the Tumut and Adelong and
ood districts. In 1880, the Temora gold-fields, in the Mur-
gee district, about 30 to 40 miles from the inland town of
Wagga, were discovered, and were for some years in a
ing condition. The district is now drifting from mining into
ortant agricultural settlement. In the north of the colony,
New England district; on the coast, in the county of Glou-
and in the extreme north-west, at Mount Poole, Mount
e, and Tibooburra, the gold-fields maintain a considerable
tion of miners. The system of hydraulic sluicing is adopted
two or three mines in the New England district; at Kiandra,
southern table-lands, where extensive reservoirs have been
and the face of the rocks attacked in various places; at
hery, near Bombala, where the Delegate River Hydraulic
g Company have erected machinery capable of lifting 4,500,000
of water to a height of 330 feet in twenty-four hours; in
elong Creek, near Adelong; and in the Shoalhaven valley,
large sums have been expended by companies in endea-
g to bring water to bear for sluicing several promising beds
rium.

principal quartz-veins are situated near Adelong, Armidale,
t, Hill End, Orange, Parkes, and Wyalong. The districts
produced the largest quantities of gold during 1896 were—
ve, 37,901 oz. (Hillgrove, 24,420 oz., and Hillgrove West,
oz.); Wyalong and Wyalong West, 33,495 oz.; Orange (chiefly
w), 29,446 oz.; Cobar, 25,750 oz.; Parkes, 12,500 oz.; Welling-
iefly Mitchell's Creek), 7,130 oz.; Gulgong, 7,000 oz.; Captain's
,560 oz.; Peak Hill, 6,428 oz.; Sofala, 4,753 oz.; Broken Hill,
oz.; Temora, 4,066 oz.; Hill End, 4,003 oz.; Major's Creek,
oz.; Young, 3,657 oz.; Ironbarks, 3,524 oz.; and Tumberumba,
oz. Besides the Mount Drysdale gold-field, in the Cobar dis-
iscovered in 1893, the most important find of recent years
ade at Wyalong, in the Lachlan district. The first prospect-
im on this field was registered on the 26th December, 1893;
rush at once ensued, and in the early part of 1894 there
robably more than 10,000 persons on the ground. This num-
now been reduced to reasonable proportions, and in 1896
duction from the field was only exceeded by that derived
he Hillgrove district, and showed an increase of 8,998 oz. on
ld of the previous year, and of 23,846 oz. on the yield of 1894.
r new field was discovered in 1894 at Garangula, near Mur-
rah. It may be pointed out that, as shown above, the Broken
roprietary Company saved during the year 4,389 oz. gold from
ilver-lead bullion.

The following table shows the average yield of gold obtained certain parcels of quartz crushed in several of the mining di during 1896:—

District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.
	tons.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Bathurst	18,237	1 13 15	30,301 7 15
Tambaroora and Turon	4,232	0 13 6	2,892 13 3
Lachlan	36,787	1 6 6	48,286 4 20
Southern	17,025	0 6 9	5,446 3 17
Tumut and Adelong......	6,160	0 8 12	2,626 12 14
Peel and Uralla	47,551	0 14 11	34,388 10 0
Hunter and Macleay ...	470	0 17 0	401 10 0
Clarence and Richmond	1,729	0 17 17	1,539 11 0
Mudgee	21,399	0 12 11	13,319 10 0
Cobar	3,129	0 9 17	1,541 11 0
New England	2,119	0 9 14	1,018 17 0
Total	158,838	0 17 20	141,762 10 21

The gold found in New South Wales is never absolutely pure, a containing traces of other metals, such as copper, iron, and bismut often a fair percentage of silver. To the presence of silver its yellow colour is due. New South Wales gold is generally lighter in than Victorian gold, but is of a deeper yellow than that found in the of Southern Queensland. Its specific gravity averages about 17·5.

The average weight of the metal obtained by each miner in was 13·33 oz., valued at £48 6s. 8d. It must not be supposed, how that these men were employed during the whole year for so s wage. Many of the miners follow other pursuits during a porti the year; besides this, there were several new fields which s had yielded very small returns, and a large number of men engaged in prospecting. For the past ten years the average quant gold won per miner has been 14·72 oz., valued at £53 5s. 2d.

The steam engines employed in quartz-mining in 1896 numbered with an aggregate of 4,107 horse-power. There were also 196 cru machines, and 1,462 stamp-heads. In alluvial gold and tin there were employed 32 steam engines, of which the aggregate power equalled 409. The value of the machinery employed in mining is estimated at £693,198.

The number of fatal accidents in gold-mines during 1896 was ten more than in the previous year. Fourteen men lost their li auriferous quartz mining, and eight in alluvial workings; while nin seriously injured in quartz mines, and two in alluvial mines; and t [illegible] with slight accidents in quartz-mines, and one in alluvial wor

From the date of the first discovery of payable gold, in 1851, end of the year 1896, the quantity of gold produced in the Austra ies represents a total value of £388,533,999, extracted in the short of forty-five years. The share of each colony in the production is wealth is given below:—

Colony.	Value.	Proportion raised in each Colony.
	£	per cent.
New South Wales	43,399,958	11·17
Victoria	244,138,728	62·84
Queensland	39,196,465	10·09
South Australia	1,918,456	0·49
Western Australia	4,104,041	1·06
Tasmania	3,383,921	0·87
New Zealand	52,392,430	13·48
Australasia	388,533,999	100·00

y far the largest proportion of this amount was produced by the ny of Victoria—amounting in fact to nearly two-thirds of the whole. Zealand is the next largest producer, New South Wales coming third. the ten years ended 1896, the world's production of gold is estimated llows:—

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
	£		£
1887	20,155,000	1892	29,260,000
1888	22,139,000	1893	31,110,000
1889	24,699,000	1894	38,035,000
1890	23,780,000	1895	41,562,000
1891	26,130,000	1896	45,305,000

f the total value for 1896, the Australasian colonies produced about per cent., and New South Wales alone, 2·4 per cent.

SILVER.

p to the year 1882 the quantity of silver raised in New South es was very small, but in that and following years extensive overies of this metal, associated principally with lead and copper were made in various parts of the colony, notably at Boorook, the New England district, and, later on, at Sunny Corner, near hurst, and at Silverton, Broken Hill, and other places on the Barrier ge.

he argentiferous lead ores of the Barrier Ranges and Broken Hill ricts of New South Wales have, more than any other, attracted ntion. This rich silver-field, which was discovered in 1883 by Charles p, a boundary rider on Mount Gipps Run, extends over 2,500 square s of country, and has developed into one of the principal mining tres of the world. It is situated beyond the river Darling, and on confines of the neighbouring colony of South Australia. In the rier Range district the lodes occur in Silurian metamorphic micaceous schists and banded gneisses, intruded by granite, porphyry, and and traversed by numerous quartz reefs, some of which are gold- The Broken Hill lode is the largest as yet discovered. It varies from 10 feet to 200 feet, and may be traced for several miles, the having been taken up all along the line of the lode, and sul into numerous leases, held by mining companies and syndicates.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company hold the premier They have erected on their lease a complete smelting plant on th and most approved principles, and have enlisted the services petent managers, whose experience has been gained in the ce silver-mining centres of the United States. From the commen of mining operations in 1885 to the end of May, 1897, th pany treated 3,299,331 tons of silver and silver-lead ores, pr 87,526,567 oz. of silver and 326,060 tons of lead, valued in the market at £17,133,184. They have paid dividends and bonuse amount of £6,416,000, besides the nominal value of shares fr several "Blocks." The sum spent in the erection and constru plant, from the opening of the property, is about £750,000. T wages and salary sheet for the twelve months was £407,315, in £79,056 paid to contractors and £55,760 for quarrying. balance of £272,499 was made up of mine wages £77,169 ; s wages, £105,340 ; lixiviation, chloridising, concentration, roasti refinery wages, £88,556 ; and electric light wages, £1,434. profit for the year was £300,120.

Besides the mines at Broken Hill, there are workings at Si and Thackaringa in the same district. The total value of n exported from the Barrier district during 1896 was £1,754,5 tributed as follows:—Silver-lead bullion, 19,421 tons, £788,530 ; lead ore, 267,058 tons, £955,644 ; copper ore, 15 tons, £75 ; and matte, 247 tons, £10,266. The quantity of pure silver containe items enumerated amounted to about 10,395,000 oz.

As a natural consequence of the success of these mines, num miners were attracted to the district, and the population, which consisted of only a few station hands, had risen to a total of souls at the date of the 1891 census, of whom 6,465 men were en in and about the mines. The population of the district is now est however, at about 20,000. The aggregate output of the mines, ing the Proprietary, to the end of 1896, was valued at £21,1 and the value of the machinery in the Barrier district at the the year was £929,300. The proximity of Silverton and the district to the colony of South Australia could not fail to attr attention of the business people at Adelaide, who were not realise the advantages which they would obtain by attracting their capital the traffic of a region of such immense wealth. T way system of South Australia was immediately extended to the and in the colony of New South Wales a tramway was laid dow connecting the town of Silverton and the mines of Broken Hill

to Adelaide and Port Pirie, in the latter instance reducing the
rriage by some 70 to 80 miles.
mpany has been formed in London for the purpose of acquiring
hts in New South Wales of a new process for the treatment
hide ores. Works have been constructed at Dapto, near Lake
rra, and it is intended to smelt refractory gold ores as well as
res. The machinery is capable of treating 200,000 tons yearly.
r company has erected at Cockle Creek, near Newcastle, electro-
rgical works, which are giving employment to a large number
. The process adopted at the Sulphide Corporation's works at
Creek is that known as Ashcroft's, and is a most remarkable and
ting one. The capital of the company is £1,000,000; and the
f their operations will be watched with the very greatest interest,
s considered that Mr. Ashcroft's discovery is one of the most
able of the century.
quantity and value of silver and silver-lead ore exported from
outh Wales to the end of 1896 is shown in the following table:—

Silver.		Silver Lead.			Total Value.
		Quantity.		Value.	
Quantity.	Value.	Ore.	Metal.		
oz.	£	tons cwt.	tons cwt.	£	£
728,779	178,405	191 13	....	5,025	183,430
38,618	9,024	11 19	....	360	9,384
77,066	16,488	105 17	....	1,625	18,113
93,660	19,780	4,668 1	....	123,174	142,954
794,174	159,187	2,095 16	190 8	107,626	266,813
1,015,433	197,544	4,802 2	....	294,485	492,029
177,308	32,458	12,530 3	....	541,952	574,410
375,064	66,668	11,739 7	18,102 5	1,075,737	1,142,405
416,895	72,001	46,965 9	34,579 17	1,899,197	1,971,198
496,552	95,410	89,719 15	41,319 18	2,667,144	2,762,554
729,590	134,850	92,383 11	55,396 3	3,484,739	3,619,589
250,662	56,884	87,504 15	45,850 4	2,420,952	2,477,836
531,972	78,131	155,859 1	58,401 3	2,953,589	3,031,720
646,822	94,150	137,813 8	42,513 2	2,195,339	2,289,489
550,142	81,858	190,192 19	29,687 7	1,560,813	1,642,671
202,789	26,518	267,363 1	19,573 4	1,758,933	1,785,451
,423,526	1,319,356	1,103,946 17	345,613 11	21,090,690	22,410,046

he bulk of the silver is exported in the form of silver-lead bullion
, it is impossible to ascertain the exact quantity of pure silver
til the product has been realised in London. A calculation based
res given in the reports of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company
ts, however, the statement that the total value of £22,410,046,
in the above table, was approximately made up of 115,964,200 oz.
silver, value £17,196,800, and of 435,800 tons of lead, value

£5,213,246. Owing to the steady fall in the price of silver, whi
already set in before the opening up of the Broken Hill mi
which, after a slight recovery in 1890, has since been accentua
the closing of the Indian mints to the coinage of silver, th
of the output has not increased in the same ratio as its quantity.
at the already low prices of 1890, the value of the 1896
would have been worth £997,000 more than the figure at
it is set down. The consequences of the rapid fall during the l
years have been the closing of some of the smaller mines, the n
ment of dividends in others, and the reduction of dividends and w
expenses, and consequently diminished employment, in the largest
In 1896, however, the price of silver was rather higher than i
and 1895. The great fall in production during 1895 was prin
due to the stoppage of work at the Proprietary mine for some t
consequence of the outbreak of fire in the underground workings.

An attempt has been made to calculate the cost of produc
ounce of silver at the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Min
1888. The process adopted has been to ascertain the weight of
to which the lead in the ore is equivalent at the current price o
metal, to add to this the weight of silver contained in the ore,
place the cost of production against the nominal weight of sil
ascertained. Thus, during the three working years ended
1891, the average yield of silver per ton of ore treated was
oz. The value of the lead obtained from the ore was £2·23, eq
about 11·02 oz. of silver at 48·62d. per oz. This quantity, added to
oz. gives a nominal result of 48·58 oz. The average cost of prod
was £4·05 per ton of ore, which for 48·62 oz. is equivalent to 2
per oz. The average prices of these metals since 1888 have b
follow :—

Period.	Price of Silver per oz.	Price of Lead per ton.
	d.	£
June, 1888, to May, 1891.........	48·62	13·90
June, 1891, to May, 1893.........	44·53	12·06
June, 1893, to May, 1896.........	33·13	11·85
Half-year ended November, 1896	33·00	10·89

Adopting the empirical method explained above, the followin
shows the cost of producing silver at Broken Hill during the
periods :—

Period.	Cost of producing Silver per oz.
	d.
June, 1888, to May, 1891........................	20·03
June, 1891, to May, 1893........................	21·58
June, 1893, to May, 1896..	19·85
Half-year ended November, 1896	25·94

ost of raising and treating the ore has fallen during the eight om £4·05 to £2·50, while the cost of obtaining silver has i from 20·03d. to 25·94d. per oz. The reason of this will be n the following table, which shows that the results per ton of fallen from 37·56 oz. of silver and 3·21 cwt. of lead during the ee years to 21·98 oz. of silver and 1·51 cwt. of lead during the ars ended May, 1896, or to 19·34 oz. of silver and 0·97 cwt. of ing the last half-year of 1896 :—

Period.	Results per ton of Ore.		Cost of raising and treating 1 ton of ore.
	Silver.	Lead.	
	oz.	cwt.	£
une, 1888, to May, 1891...	37·56	3·21	4·05
une, 1891, to May, 1893...	30·13	2·39	3·41
une, 1893, to May, 1896...	21·98	1·51	2·35
alf-year ended Nov., 1896	19·34	0·97	2·50

number of miners engaged in silver and silver-lead mines in 1896 555, and the average value of mineral won, per miner engaged, 21 8s. 3d., as compared with £352 13s. 1d. in 1895.

total number of accidents which took place in the silver-mines of outh Wales during the course of the year 1896 was 34, 9 persons their lives, 12 suffering severe injuries, and 13 meeting with injuries. These figures are much lower than in 1895, during which n account of an accident in the South Broken Hill mine, 9 lives ost. In most years the casualties form but a very small proportion persons engaged in silver-mining, while the elements of danger eat, and this must be taken as reflecting considerable credit on anagement of the mines.

world's production of silver during the ten years ended 1896 en estimated as follows :—

Year.	Ounces.	Year.	Ounces.
1887	96,124,000	1892	152,940,000
1888	108,827,000	1893	162,162,000
1889	120,214,000	1894	178,668,000
1890	126,095,000	1895	182,220,000
1891	137,171,000	1896	186,042,000

annual output of New South Wales is about one-twelfth of al production of silver.

TIN.

e tin occurs principally in the granite, and stream tin under the c, country in the extreme north of the colony—at Tenterfield, Emmaville, Tingha, and in other districts of New England metal has also been discovered in the Barrier District, at Pool and Euriowie; near Bombala, in the Monaro district; at Gundl Kempsey; at Jingellie, on the Upper Murray; at Dora Dora, Upper Murray; and in the valley of the Lachlan; but in none o districts has it been worked to any extent. Although the first dis was made by the Rev. W. B. Clarke as far back as 1853, the ope tin-fields in the colony did not take place until the year 1872, from date to the year 1882 the production, for which the net export is increased rapidly, as may be seen from the following statement:-

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
	£		£
1872 to 1876	1,032,483	1888	309,510
1877	248,906	1889	207,670
1878	214,613	1890	179,057
1879	256,732	1891	133,963
1880	354,252	1892	152,994
1881	568,795	1893	126,114
1882	541,413	1894	85,264
1883	448,887	1895	87,937
1884	281,168	1896	68,546
1885	308,760		
1886	277,545		
1887	311,889	Total	6,196,518

It will be seen that tin has contributed in a very considerable to the general development of the natural wealth of the colony, point of value its aggregate production stands in the fourth place- to gold, coal, and silver. For the years 1881 and 1882 the value production of tin was even in excess of that of gold; the export 1894, 1895, and 1896, however, was the smallest since the opening tin fields. Although tin-mining is now one of the settled industries country, and the supply is practically unlimited, the quantity depends almost entirely upon the price realised.

In 1881, when the industry was at its greatest height and pros the export had increased to £568,795 from £249,779 in 1876. I the production was but £27,000 less; but after that year, ow protracted dry seasons, which in many cases prevented mining tions, combined with the comparatively low price which the brought, the value of the output fell considerably. Another ca diminished production is that the shallow deposits of stream-ti to a great extent been exhausted, although the deep deposits a tin lodes have as yet scarcely been touched, nearly all the metal h produced having been taken from alluvial deposits. The princip worked during 1896 were the Vegetable Creek Tin-field, near ville; at Tent Hill; at the Mann River, near Glen Innes; at W Downfall; and at Tingha. Within the twenty-five years tha

l since the opening of the tin-fields, the value of the exports has
6,196,518.

he alluvial tin-fields of Tingha and Emmaville, the number of
e engaged in this industry has in some years greatly exceeded
ropeans. In 1896, however, the Chinese at Emmaville num-
only 270, whilst the Europeans working alluvial tin-drifts and
es numbered 300. The total number of miners employed in tin-
in the colony was 1,419, viz., 928 Europeans and 491 Chinese,
all of whom were employed in the Northern Districts. No
ts occurred in tin-mines during 1896.

COPPER.

principal deposits of this mineral are found in the central
f the colony, between the Macquarie, Bogan, and Darling
Deposits have also been found in the New England and Southern
s, as well as at Broken Hill, showing that the mineral is widely
ted throughout the colony. The copper-mining industry, which
time attained considerable dimensions, reached its highest point
luction in 1883; but from that year there was a considerable
off in consequence of the decline in the price of the metal; indeed,
ry low figure reached during the last few years deterred many
mbarking in operations which showed every promise of success,
me of the mines which had been worked for many years were
The principal difficulty, common to other branches of the mining
ry, lies in the great distance of some of the chief copper-mines
he port of shipment, and the consequently heavy cost of land
e. There is now, however, a gratifying revival in the industry,
e prospects for the future seem to be of a favourable character.
pper-lodes of New South Wales contain ores of a very much
percentage than those of many well-known mines worked at a
in other parts of the world, and should return satisfactory results,
hstanding the very large fall in price which has taken place since
lure of the copper syndicate in 1888.

more important mines are those of Cobar, where the Great Cobar
which recommenced work early in 1894, raised in the following
7,845 tons of ore, yielding 1,703 tons of smelted copper; and, in
66,431 tons of ore, yielding 2,650 tons of smelted copper, valued
7,200. It may be mentioned that the copper extracted from this
s found to contain gold more than sufficient to pay for mining
eating the ore. The syndicate to whom the mines belong now
mployment to 450 men. The Nymagee Copper-mine, which has
cquired by the Great Cobar Syndicate, raised 3,249 tons of ore,
g 380 tons of smelted copper, valued at £17,948. The Burraga
ny produced 4,241 tons of refined copper in 1896, valued at
28; 150 men find constant employment at their mines. The
tion of the Mount Hope Copper Company was 1,092 tons of ore,
g 141 tons of refined copper; while at South Mount Hope another

company raised 454 tons of ore, the refined copper obtained amo to 55 tons. In other districts considerable activity is also displayed. It may be mentioned that the Broken Hill Prop Company saved copper to the value of £29,070 in the course o operations during the year.

The net export of copper, which is taken as the production colony, is shown below from the year 1859:—

Year.	Value.	Year.	Value.
	£		£
1859 to 1876	408,071	1888	247,304
1877	127,396	1889	122,444
1878	209,030	1890	84,107
1879	210,623	1891	119,195
1880	268,700	1892	114,559
1881	257,884	1893	73,287
1882	182,473	1894	63,617
1883	472,982	1895	136,969
1884	362,287	1896	197,814
1885	170,993		
1886	122,990		
1887	115,444	Total......	4,068,169

It will be seen that the value of the export during 1894 w than in any previous year given, a fact doubtless caused by the of many small mines owing to the unremunerative price of the The industry, however, received a fillip during 1895, and in 18 production reached was the highest since the year 1888.

The total number of miners engaged in copper-mining in 18 810. There was one fatal accident recorded in such mines duri year: one miner met with a serious accident, and five others s slight injuries.

IRON.

Iron is widely diffused throughout the colony, and occurs prin in the form of magnetite, brown hematite or goethite, limonit bog-iron. Deposits of chrome iron are also found. Magnetite richest of all the iron ores, sometimes containing a little over cent. of available metallic iron, though it is not often found re this very high percentage. These ores are widely distributed th out New South Wales. The results of a number of analyses mad deposits at Brown's Creek, in the county of Bathurst, and at W wang, where veins were opened out a few years ago, show th samples of ore yielded from 40·89 to 56·85 per cent. of metalli At Wallerawang, a variety of garnet, containing a large percen metal, occurs in conjunction with the ore in the veins, which is de as "extremely well adapted for reduction in the blast furnace." Hematite or goethite occurs in very extensive deposits in the Mountain Ranges, the principal centres so far explored being a

gong, Picton, Berrima, Lithgow Valley, Wallerawang, in the
and Mudgee Districts, and in the vicinity of Port Stephens.
lt of a number of analyses of this kind of ore denotes that it is
in metallic iron, containing a proportion of 42·69 to 64·48 per
d in the majority of cases over 55 per cent. of metal. A
f hematite from the Maitland district contained 60·83 per
metallic iron. A sample of brown hematite from Mount
, near Wollongong, analysed during 1891, gave 54·28 per cent.
The value of these deposits is enhanced by their almost
le occurrence in proximity to limestone and coal-beds. It is
e, also, that the main lines of railway pass through the regions
e deposits are most easily worked.

ite—a variety of brown hematite—principally occurs at Lithgow,
, and Bowenfels, in the Blue Mountains; in several parts of the
River coal-field; and at Bulli, in the Illawarra District. This
ually found very rich in metal, and contains an average of over
ent. of iron; while the English clay bands, which are mostly
es, only contain about 30 per cent. of metallic substance. It
n lenticular layers of no great extent, in the Coal Measures.
-ore, which is impure limonite, is principally found at Mitta-
nd assays of this ore gave an average percentage of metal of
n 45 per cent.

of the other southern provinces possesses deposits of iron-ore ap-
g in extent or richness those of New South Wales. It is therefore
that at some future time this colony will become the great seat
ron industry of Australia. As illustrating the present extent
upply required, the following table, showing the value of all
ions of iron, machinery, and iron manufactures imported into
ous colonies during the five years, 1892–96, has been compiled:—

ny.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	Average Yearly Import, 1892–96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
th Wales	2,574,122	1,531,839	1,189,249	1,219,096	1,957,143	1,694,290
....	1,038,425	715,271	699,696	665,148	1,194,976	862,703
nd	521,701	363,624	496,029	691,215	848,871	584,288
stralia ..	561,315	405,214	349,945	349,826	536,632	440,586
Australia	221,652	354,759	355,890	587,063	1,052,135	514,300
....	208,924	153,771	104,969	117,946	155,813	148,285
land.........	1,000,915	920,626	836,589	781,602	1,095,206	926,988
ralasia ...	6,127,054	4,445,104	4,032,367	4,411,896	6,840,776	5,171,440

verage yearly import for the five years covered by the above
nt amounts to £1,694,290 for New South Wales, and £5,171,440

for Australasia; and the quantity of pig-iron required to prod
material represented by these values is approximately 122,5(
and 373,900 tons per annum for New South Wales and the whol
of colonies respectively. In a report, dated January, 1891, by t
Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, Government Geologist, it is stated that t
deposits in the districts of Mittagong, Wallerawang, and Rylsto
tained in sight 12,944,000 tons of ore, estimated to yield 5,853,0
of metallic iron. These districts are most favourably situated
establishment of smelting works. Some years ago public atten
England was drawn to the possibility of manufacturing iron
the colony, and a mining expert was sent out from that cou
inspect the iron, lime, and coal deposits, and to report upon the p
cost of establishing the industry in the colony, but so far the vi
been without result.

The principal works for the manufacture of iron from the
situated at Eskbank, near Lithgow, where red siliceous ore, ave
22 per cent., and brown hematite, yielding 50 per cent. metalli
have been successfully treated. Abundance of coal and limesto
found in the neighbourhood. This establishment, however, l
some time abandoned the manufacture of pig-iron, for which
originally built. The work now carried on consists of the re-rol
old rails, and the manufacture of iron bars, rods, and nails,
ordinary castings. The quantity manufactured from scrap durin
was 4,721 tons, valued at £33,283. A successful attempt ha
made at Mittagong to make gas-pipes, etc., from iron smelted fr
ore, and taken direct to the mould, without first making it into pi
Some years ago the iron smelting works at Fitzroy, Mittagong
established, but after producing a considerable quantity of pig-i
operations were discontinued. Some samples of ore, coal, and lin
obtained in this district, with pig-iron and castings manufa
therefrom, were exhibited at the late Mining Exhibition in Lond
obtained a first award. Iron ore is raised in some places in the
but is used chiefly for the purpose of flux.

During the year 1893, Parliament agreed to a resolution
manufacture of 30,000 tons of iron piping in the colony, and
of the work have since been let by tender as opportunity offer
further order for £75,000 worth of iron pipes was placed by the
ment with local firms, in November, 1897. In 1896 tenders wer
by the Government for the supply of 150,000 tons of steel rails, w
necessary quantities of fish plates, fish-bolts, and spikes, to be m
tured in New South Wales, from iron ore and other necessary m
produced in the colony. The tenders closed on the 30th Dece
that year. The specification provided for the delivery of 15,000 t
annum, in equal monthly quantities, the first delivery to take pl
later than eighteen months after the signing of the contract. On
offers received was accepted.

ANTIMONY.

ts of antimony occur in the colony in various places, chiefly rmidale, Bathurst, and Rylstone districts; and at Bowraville orth Coast. The principal centre of this industry is at Hillar Armidale, where the Eleanora Mine, one of the richest in y, is situated. The ore is also worked for gold. The results nber of analyses, made by the authorities of the Geological show from 29·57 to 79·45 per cent. of metal; but, notwiththese encouraging assays, the price has not been sufficiently tempt Australian producers. A considerable quantity of antis raised some years ago at the Corangula mines, in the Macleay but these mines are at present idle. Lodes have also been nd partly worked near Nambucca, Drake, Gulgong, and Razorhe value of antimony raised during 1896 was £1,834, and up nd of that year, £183,399. With the exception of 30 tons, t £200, raised at Bowraville, the production in 1896 was at Hillgrove. The industry has suffered greatly during the last s from the low price of the metal, and the output is not likely ve until the price takes an upward tendency.

MANGANESE.

its of manganese ore have been discovered in various parts of uth Wales. Pyrolusite, in the form of black oxide and manlioxide, occurs principally in the Bathurst districts and at Ben-Wide veins have also been found in the Glen Innes district, Newton-Boyd road. Some of the specimens analysed have very high percentage of metal; but the demand for manganese olony is very trifling, and until a foreign market is found, or nufactories requiring the metal spring up, the rich deposits of will remain comparatively untouched. The ore is found extena conjunction with iron in coal and lime-stone country, and ntains a small percentage of cobalt.

BISMUTH.

uth is found associated with molybdenum and gold, in quartz- the neighbourhood of Glen Innes, whence the quantity raised n chiefly obtained. The principal mines are situated at Kingshere the mineral occurs in a granitic formation, associated with num, mispickel, and tin; but at the present time they are lly closed, there being little demand for the mineral in London, y 41 tons were forwarded there in 1896. It is stated that in the e district promising indications of payable deposits have been The largest mass of native bismuth yet discovered in the colony more than 30 lb. The value of this metal exported up to the 1896 was £38,212.

PLATINUM.

Platinum and the allied compound metal Iridosmine have been in New South Wales, but so far in inconsiderable quantities, the occurring commonly with gold or tin in alluvial drifts. It is be that the beach deposits at Ballina and other places on the no coast might, with improved appliances, be profitably worked for plat Fifteen cwt. of sand from this district were forwarded in 18 platinum merchants in London for treatment. The tests made p however, that the small percentage of metal found and the cost of e tion barely leave a margin of profit. On the northern beaches, a platinum is being obtained by the miners who are working the sand for gold. The metal has also been discovered at Fifield, i Parkes district, and in lodes near Broken Hill and Orange. At F 2,900 oz. were saved in the course of the gold-washing operations d the year 1896. The Fifield platinum occurs in coarse shotty g and is much purer than that obtained from the northern beach The quantity of platinum exported during 1896 was 2,438 oz., v at £3,479.

OTHER METALS.

Mercury, in the form of cinnabar, has been discovered on the Cudgegong River, near Rylstone, and it also occurs at Bingara, Solf Yulgilbar and Cooma. In the latter place the assays of ore yi 22 per cent. of mercury. Very large and rich deposits have been f on Noggriga Creek, near Yulgilbar, and three 40-acre blocks have taken up. Cinnabar leases have also been applied for in the Bi district.

Deposits of cobalt have been found at Bungonia, Carcoar, and Macquarie; but the market for the metal is small, and no attemp yet been made to produce it on any large scale.

Chromium is found in the northern portion of New South W in the Clarence and Tamworth districts, and also near Gundagai. usually associated with serpentine. In the Gundagai district industry was rapidly becoming a valuable one, but the low pri chrome has greatly restricted the output. During 1896 the prod reached 1,000 tons, valued at [illegible]. The exports of chrome ore d the year amounted to £11,[illegible]

Tellurium has been discovered at Bingara and other parts o northern districts, as well as at [illegible], on the Western Line, thou present only in such minute quantities as would not repay the c working. It has also been found at Captain's Flat, in association bismuth.

At Berridale, in the Snowy River district, a lode has been teste wolfram. The metal, which is a compound of tungstate of iro and manganese, has also been found in the New England district.

ine is found usually associated with silver, lead, and copper, but the
al has not yet been profitably worked.
eposits of pigments are found near Mudgee and Dubbo, and also in
Orange district, where a fair quantity of the raw material, consisting
ipally of purple oxide and yellow ochre, has been produced.

NON-METALLIC MINERALS—COAL.

e carboniferous formations extend over a considerable portion of
olony, and workable coal-seams have been discovered in many
a. At present, however, the coal-mining industry is confined to
centres which, from their close proximity to ports of shipment
e railway lines, afford ready means for the disposal of the com-
ty when raised.

al was first discovered in the colony in the year 1797 near Mount
a, in the Illawarra district, by a man named Clark, supercargo
e Sydney Cove, while he was endeavouring to reach Sydney
ay of the coast after the wreck of that vessel in Bass' Strait.
r in the same year Lieutenant Shortland discovered the River
ter, with the coal-beds situated near its mouth, and mining operations
is district, begun in 1826, have reached large dimensions.

e deposits which have been found in the Blue Mountains, near the
of railway which runs along their crest, at Katoomba, Lithgow,
erawang, and elsewhere, now supply a portion of the requirements
ydney and other industrial centres in its neighbourhood, as well as
of the western district of the colony. Coal is also mined at Berrima
ther places in that district, whence a large quantity of the coal
umed in the southern districts of the colony is obtained. The area
which coal is distributed is very great, and has been computed at
50 square miles; besides this, it is known to underlie the Hawkesbury
stone in and around Sydney. The diamond-drill was used at
orne Point, near Mossman's Bay, for the purpose of ascertaining
her coal existed beneath the metropolis. A depth of 3,095 ft. was
ed, the deepest bore yet put down in Australia. Coal was met with,
he work was discontinued, as there was every reason to believe, from
osition of two doleritic dykes met with, that a volcanic disturbance,
as is often found in the Southern coal-fields, had occurred at that
cular spot. It was considered to have been proved that the Illawarra
measures extended under Sydney, and it was resolved to put down
er bore about half a mile distant from the previous one, and mid-
between the two dykes. The new bore-hole was the largest ever
pted in Australia, the boring-bit being $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, and
le of bringing up a $4\frac{1}{8}$-in. core. A commencement was made with
work at the end of 1891, and, after carrying the bore down to a
of 2,929 ft., a very valuable discovery of good steam coal was
. The seam is 10 ft. 3 in. in thickness 9 ft. 2 in. of it being

workable. A company to work the mine has been floated in Lond with a nominal capital of £300,000, and sinking operations have be begun at Balmain. A coal seam 6ft. 6½ in. thick has been found the Moorbank Estate, near Liverpool, at a depth of 2,583 ft. Coal h also been found in the Clarence series, though it has not yet be worked commercially. Three seams have been proved at Coraki, on th Richmond River. Several parties have exploited this district for co and at the mine at Aberdare 150 tons of good coal have been obtain from a seam 6 ft. thick. The quantity of coal in the coal measure down to a depth of 4,000 ft., and excluding seams less than 30 in., estimated by the Government Geologist at 78,198 million tons. Th estimate allows for one-third loss in working.

In 1826, the Australian Agricultural Society obtained a grant 1,000,000 acres of land, together with the sole right, conferred charter, of working the coal-seams which were known to exist in th Newcastle district. Several mines were opened up, and profitabl worked for a number of years; but it was not until the expiration, in 1847, of the monopoly enjoyed by the company that the coal-mining industry showed signs of extensive development. During the yea named the output of coal only reached the total of 40,732 tons, of th value of £13,750. Six years afterwards the production had be doubled, and the output of this mineral has rapidly increased year b year until coal-mining is now one of the staple industries of the colony. Newcastle is singularly well fitted by situation to become the port supply for all the countries of the southern seas. Every week coal-laden vessels leave its wharfs, not only for the Australian colonie but for China, India, the Pacific Slope of North and South America Mauritius, the Cape of Good Hope, and other lands. Every provisio has been made by the Government for shipping coal, and over tw miles of wharfs, furnished with cranes and shoots capable of loading over 28,000 tons per day, line its shores. The markets of the colonie are also supplied with quantities of excellent coal from the seam worked in the Illawarra district.

From the 40,732 tons extracted in 1847, the quantity raised ha in 1891 expanded to the large figure of 4,037,929 tons, valued £1,742,796. This is the largest output ever reached in a single year. In 1892 the production fell to 3,780,968 tons, valued at £1,462,388 while in 1893 there was a further fall to 3,278,328 tons, valued £1,171,722; but in 1894 the production again took an upward ten dency, and in 1895 stood at 3,738,589 tons, of a value of £1,095,327 and in 1896, 3,909,517 tons, valued at £1,125,281. Although th quantity extracted in 1896 has only been exceeded in 1891, the fall i prices has placed the value below that of every year since 1882, wit the exception of 1895. To the end of 1896, the total quantity of co extracted from the New South Wales mines, from their opening in th early years of the century, amounted to 72,282,266 tons, valued £31,819,331.

umber of coal-mines under inspection in New South Wales at
of the year 1896 was 96, being a decrease of 3 from the figures
They gave employment to 9,233 persons, of whom 7,538 were
d under ground, and 1,695 above ground. The average quantity
xtracted per miner was 519 tons, as against an average of 503
the previous year, and 492 tons for 1894. The low average for
ly 368, is accounted for by the strike that occurred during
r; but a tendency to decline had been exhibited since 1882,
e average per miner was 578 tons. In 1896, owing to the
tively small number of miners employed, and the increased out-
ompared with most of the preceding years, the average was the
ince 1885, when it was 511 tons.

will be found the quantity of coal raised in the colony, and
ber of coal-miners employed, during each of the last ten years.
ed on the total value of the coal produced during the decade,
age quantity of 447 tons extracted yearly by each person
d underground represents a value of £170 19s. 6d., and for the
mber of persons employed, £149 5s. 7d. In 1896 the average
production was £139 4s. 6d. for each person employed under-
and £121 17s. 6d. for each person employed in any capacity
e mines :—

ear.	Persons employed in and about mines.	Persons employed under-ground.	Quality of Coal raised.		
			Total.	Per person employed in and about mines.	Per person employed under-ground.
	No.	No.	tons.	tons.	tons.
	7,998	6,539	2,922,497	365	447
	9,301	7,622	3,203,444	344	420
	10,277	8,349	3,655,632	356	438
	10,469	8,311	3,060,876	292	368
	10,820	8,718	4,037,929	373	463
	10,514	8,624	3,780,968	360	438
	10,028	8,267	3,278,328	327	396
	9,131	7,461	3,672,076	402	492
	9,022	7,438	3,738,589	414	503
	9,233	7,538	3,909,517	423	519
e for 10 years	9,679	7,887	3,525,986	364	447

elieved that the industry is still suffering to some extent from
ts of the strikes in 1887 and 1890, which not only caused a
ry suspension of trade, and deprived the colony of the benefit
g and handling some 600,000 tons of coal, but induced buyers
ther markets for the supply of their requirements. Among
ings, this promoted the development of the coal-mines in Japan,
wing to the cheapness of labour, coal can be produced, though
of inferior quality, at a price which makes it a formidable

competitor to Australian coal. Still, as before explained, the in 1891 was the largest on record, and the export for th 2,514,368 tons, exceeded that of the previous year by 692,494 t even that of 1889 by 126,666 tons. In 1892, the total export to 2,191,705 tons; in 1893, to 1,835,090 tons; in 1894, to 2,125,1 in 1895, to 2,166,230 tons; and, in 1896, to 2,474,907 tons. parison of the figures for 1896 with those for previous years sho the export was the largest on record to foreign ports, but that th a greater export to intercolonial ports in 1891. In home consu there was a decrease of 137,749 tons from the figures of 1895.

Northern District.—In the Northern or Hunter River Dist number of collieries under official inspection in 1896 was 67, em a complement of 6,941 persons, 5,697 of whom were miners, w etc., employed underground. The quantity of coal raised amou 2,623,016 tons, or fully 67 per cent. of the whole production South Wales. This, however, was a decrease of 8,206 tons fr figures for the previous year, and 230,236 tons less than the o 1891, the highest on record.

The following table shows the growth of the coal industry the last ten years in the Hunter District. The quantity of raised and the number of persons employed steadily increased up year 1888, when the production was interfered with by strike the number of men employed and the quantity of coal raise fluctuated since. The output in 1891 was higher than in any p year, while in 1895 it was the second highest on record:—

Year.	Persons employed in and about mines.	Persons employed under-ground.	Quantity of Coal raised.		
			Total.	Per person employed in and about mines.	Per person employed under-ground.
	No.	No.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1887	6,287	5,217	2,243,792	356	430
1888	6,873	5,736	2,067,042	300	360
1889	7,559	6,216	2,624,347	347	422
1890	7,874	6,345	2,120,046	269	334
1891	8,309	6,732	2,853,252	343	424
1892	8,204	6,783	2,611,732	318	385
1893	7,872	6,503	2,203,480	280	339
1894	7,077	5,773	2,605,143	368	451
1895	6,777	5,605	2,631,222	388	469
1896	6,941	5,697	2,623,016	378	460

Southern District.—In the Southern District there were thirteen collieries under official inspection, giving employment persons, of whom 1,506 were at work underground. These exhibit a decrease of 55 persons employed in and about the mi of 80 underground workers, as compared with those so engaged was, however, an increase of 91,874 tons in the production, the antity raised during the year being 1,008,377 tons—the largest known in one year in the district. The next highest figures are r 1892, when 932,873 tons were raised. An impetus was given trade of these collieries through the strike at the Newcastle , which caused a large demand for the southern coal.

history of coal production in this region for the last ten years e gathered from the following table:—

Year.	Persons employed in and about mines.	Persons employed under-ground.	Quantity of Coal raised.		
			Total.	Per person employed in and about mines.	Per person employed under-ground.
	No.	No.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1887	1,313	982	376,658	287	383
1888	1,676	1,244	796,806	475	640
1889	2,065	1,598	701,572	339	439
1890	1,959	1,434	597,598	305	417
1891	2,007	1,550	837,873	417	541
1892	1,860	1,469	932,873	502	635
1893	1,851	1,503	884,470	478	588
1894	1,755	1,443	867,064	494	601
1895	1,949	1,586	916,503	470	578
1896	1,894	1,506	1,008,377	532	670

tern District.—In the Western District in 1896 there were 16 ies under official inspection, giving employment to 398 persons, of 335 were at work underground. From the subsequent table, it e seen that the output in 1891 was in excess of that of any other uring the decade, not even excepting 1888, when the demand for ern coal was larger than usual, owing to the scarcity caused by the in the Northern Collieries. The figures for 1896 show an increase ,260 tons compared with those for the previous year, and are the st since 1891. The average quantity of coal raised per miner is greater in the Western collieries than elsewhere in the colony. is due to a variety of causes, but chiefly to the greater thickness of ams and the more friable character of the coal, and to the circum- e that the coal-beds are almost horizontal, and generally at small s; in some cases the coal is worked by means of adits or tunnels d of shafts, so that the facility for winning coal is much greater ese mines than in those at Newcastle. But though the output ater per miner than in the other coal regions, the price for hewing er, so that the earnings of the individual miner do not differ ly wherever the mine is situated.

e following table shows the growth of coal production in the rn region during the last ten years. Until 1891 the progress was r, and in keeping with the advance of settlement in the portion of the colony extending from the Blue Mountains to the Darling, in the Western collieries have a monopoly of the coal trade ; b 1891 to 1895 the output decreased, a considerable improvemen ever, being manifested in 1896. Situated, as these mines are, i proximity to the principal iron-fields of New South Wales, their prospects will be greatly improved should the manufacture of iro the ore become an established industry in this part of the colony :

Year.	Persons employed in and about mines.	Persons employed underground.	Quantity of Coal raised.		
			Total.	Per person employed in and about mines.	Per person employed underground.
	No.	No.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1887	398	340	302,137	759	888
1888	752	642	339,594	451	529
1889	653	535	329,713	505	616
1890	636	532	343,232	540	645
1891	504	436	346,804	688	795
1892	450	372	236,363	525	635
1893	305	261	190,378	624	729
1894	299	245	199,869	668	816
1895	296	247	190,864	645	773
1896	398	335	278,124	699	830

There were 24 persons killed and 62 injured in the New South coal-mines during 1896, making a total of 86 persons affect accidents—the number of cases terminating fatally being greate in any year since 1889, in consequence of an outburst of carbo oxide gas in the Stockton Colliery, by which eleven persons lost thei The non-fatal cases were more numerous than in any year since when the number was 77. For the decennial period ending wit —the latest date available—the average annual loss of life in the coal-mines was 1·7 per thousand, or at the rate of 180,217 tons raised for every fatal accident. In the New South Wales collier the same period, the rate was 2·6 fatal accidents per thousand employed, and only 136,177 tons of coal were raised for every li This very high average of fatal accidents in the colony results fr Bulli disaster in 1887, when 81 miners lost their lives. The stances surrounding the mining industry in New South Wales warrant the expectation of a much lighter average.

mber of accidents in the coal-mines of the colony, with the n of miners to each fatal and non-fatal case, is given herewith, the quantity of coal raised to each life lost :—

r.	Accidents.		Number of miners employed to each person.		Number of tons of coal raised to each person.	
	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.
7	45	94	178	85	64,944	31,092
8	43	15	216	620	74,500	213,565
9	57	41	180	251	64,134	89,163
0	36	13	291	805	85,024	235,452
1	54	21	200	515	74,776	192,282
2	77	8	136	1,318	49,103	472,622
3	45	13	222	771	72,851	252,171
4	40	7	228	1,304	91,802	524,589
5	47	10	192	902	79,544	373,859
6	62	24	149	385	63,057	162,897

llowing table shows the quantity and value of coal raised in y from the earliest record to the close of 1896, the total probeing 72,282,266 tons, valued at £31,819,331 :—

Period.	Quantity.	Average per ton.		Value.
	tons.	s.	d.	£
Prior to 1830	50,780	10	0	25,393
1830 to 1839	111,069	8	9	50,525
1840 ,, 1849	349,961	9	2	155,083
1850 ,, 1859	1,481,761	12	11	1,004,924
1860 ,, 1869	6,174,132	10	2	2,961,910
1870 ,, 1879	12,530,044	10	7	6,838,888
1880	1,466,180	8	5	615,336
1881	1,769,597	6	10	603,248
1882	2,109,282	9	0	948,965
1883	2,521,457	9	6	1,201,942
1884	2,749,109	9	6	1,303,077
1885	2,878,863	9	4	1,340,213
1886	2,830,175	9	2	1,303,164
1887	2,922,497	9	3	1,346,440
1888	3,203,444	9	1	1,455,198
1889	3,655,632	8	11	1,632,849
1890	3,060,876	8	4	1,279,089
1891	4,037,929	8	8	1,742,796
1892	3,780,968	7	9	1,462,388
1893	3,278,328	7	2	1,171,722
1894	3,672,076	6	4	1,155,573
1895	3,738,589	5	10	1,095,327
1896	3,909,517	5	9	1,125,281
Total	72,282,266	8	10	31,819,331

table shows that coal, like other articles of commerce, is subject uations in price. These fluctuations have to a large extent arisen in the past from uncertainty in the markets. This unce no longer exists, for the local markets and those of the other Au colonies demand a large share of the coal raised. The proportio production taken by Australasia increases almost every year, and in the direction of steadying the price, by removing the princip of fluctuation. The highest average price obtained during any y in 1854, the first of the Crimean war, and the third after the com ment of the gold rush, when the price per ton was not less than In 1872 the output reached 1,000,000 tons: ten years later increased to 2,000,000; and in 1891, to a little over 4,000,00 while for the last four years it fluctuated between three and a and four million tons.

The colony was its own chief customer during 1896, when, the total production stated above, the local consumption amou 1,434,610 tons, or 36·7 per cent. Victoria was its principal cu abroad, taking 714,666 tons, or nearly 29 per cent. of a total ex 2,474,907 tons. The quantity of coal required for local consu denotes a satisfactory increase during most years, as the followin ment shows:—

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1887	1,132,055	1892	1,589,263
1888	1,279,572	1893	1,443,238
1889	1,267,930	1894	1,546,951
1890	1,239,002	1895	1,572,359
1891	1,523,561	1896	1,434,610

The annual consumption per head increased from 16 cwt. in 22 cwt. in 1896. The larger use of steam for railway locomotives, manufacturing and other purposes, as well as the multiplication works, accounts for a great portion of the increase; but it must borne in mind that there is a large and growing demand for coal for ocean-going steamers, which appears not as an export, required for home consumption. The amount of coal taken steamers during 1896 was about 350,000 tons.

The quantity of coal supplied to the customers of the colony shows also a large increase during this period:—

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1887	1,790,442	1892	2,191,705
1888	1,923,872	1893	1,835,090
1889	2,387,702	1894	2,125,125
1890	1,821,874	1895	2,166,230
1891	2,514,368	1896	2,474,907

he coal trade of 1890 was hampered by the strike of that year
ports of 1891 necessarily showed a large advance on those of
still, even if compared with the year 1889, the trade of 1891
ed satisfactory progress, while in 1892 the exports fell not only
those of 1891, but even below those of 1889. A further large
se in the exports took place in 1893, but the figures for 1894
95 showed a slight recovery, and in 1896 the improvement was
ecided, the export being only 39,461 tons less than in 1891.

customers of New South Wales for coal during the year 1896
found in the following table, from which it will be seen how
s the circle which relies upon the colony for the supply of one
chief necessaries of civilised life:—

Country or Port.	Tons.	Country or Port.	Tons.
a	714,666	Mexico	15,160
	310,580	Ceylon	11,440
States	303,726	China	8,890
Australia	290,318	Mauritius	8,466
n Australia	150,969	United Kingdom	7,224
ealand	131,045	South Sea Islands	6,123
	76,908	Celebes	2,576
ine Islands	66,582	New Guinea	1,960
ia	57,074	Tahiti	1,744
an Islands	55,224	Cochin China	1,606
	42,901	Ecuador	1,242
Settlements	42,804	Cape Colony	684
Kong	40,817	New Britain	602
	37,387	Japan	460
land	27,724	Marshall Islands	353
a	21,903	Caroline Islands	252
aledonia	19,309	Timor	60
	16,128	Total	2,474,907

wealth of the colony in coal is enormous, and the further expan-
the industry may be regarded as almost a certainty. As the
Australian Continent is only in the early period of the develop-
of its immense resources, so also may the coal-mining industry of
South Wales be said to be in its infancy. It is, however, a very
us infancy, giving promise of a great future.

South Wales coal, especially that obtained in the northern
compares favourably as a heat producer with the best foreign
It has the advantage of a greater specific gravity, and it contains
ulphur. The result of analyses made of coals from various
ies in the colony showed that the mean specific gravity of the
ern District coals was 1·300; of the Western coals, 1·346; and of
uthern coals, 1·394; while the mean of a number of samples of
coal was 1·279. Carbon was present to the extent of 79·28 per
n the Northern, 70·75 per cent. in the Western, and 79·40 per

cent. in the Southern coal, the proportion in the British coal being per cent. The proportion of hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen is much the same in the Australian as in the British coal, but the has a slightly smaller percentage of ash. The steam-producing of the coal from the Northern districts of the colony is almost to, and that from the South and West a little below, the gener power of the coal raised in Great Britain.

COKE.

The quantities of coke manufactured in New South Wales duri last seven years were as follow :—

1890	31,097	tons, valued at	£41,147
1891	30,310	,, ,,	£34,473
1892	7,899	,, ,,	£8,853
1893	17,858	,, ,,	£20,233
1894	34,458	,, ,,	£33,209
1895	27,630	,, ,,	£24,683
1896	26,351	,, ,,	£21,851

During the same period the imports into the colony were :—

1890	38,174	tons
1891	76,542	,,
1892	61,852	,,
1893	61,874	,,
1894	47,586	,,
1895	42,526	,,
1896	43,134	,,

Almost the whole of this was imported *via* South Australia t Barrier district, where it was used for smelting purposes. The re of the South Australian Customs Department show that by fa largest quantities of this coke came originally from the United Kin and from Germany. At Broken Hill, the Proprietary Company have consumed about 1,000 tons per week. It seems a singular ci stance that the silver-miners of New South Wales should so l rely on England and Germany for their coke when the colony pos unlimited supplies of coal from which excellent coke can be factured. It is true that complaints have been heard that the co coke contains a higher percentage of ash than the imported cok that it is too friable, causing a large percentage of loss through ab in transport, while the coke, it has been said, arrives in such small as to be unfit for smelting the fine lead ores. A few years ago, how Mr. Pittman, in a report upon this subject, brought figures to that much of the foreign coke used by the Broken Hill Propr Company contained a greater percentage of ash than some c nial-made cokes ; also that the strength—or capacity for resisting akage—of the colonial cokes was greater—in some instances much ater—than that of the imported coke.

At the old Bulli mine a coal seam 6 feet thick has been for about f that thickness transformed into a sort of natural coke, apparently rough the intrusion of igneous matter underneath the seam. This tural coke is largely used on the Sydney tram-motors.

Of the quantities of coke manufactured during the last seven years New South Wales, there were produced from the Northern mines ,886 tons in 1890, 9,474 tons in 1891, 5,245 tons in 1892, 12,262 ns in 1893, 13,602 tons in 1894, 11,326 tons in 1895, and 10,398 ns in 1896 ; while the Southern and Western mines produced 15,211 ns in 1890, 20,836 tons in 1891, 2,654 tons in 1892 5,596 tons in 93, 20,856 tons in 1894, 16,304 tons in 1895, and 15,953 tons in 1896.

KEROSENE SHALE.

This mineral is found in various parts of the colony, but principally Hartley, Katoomba, Megalong, Bathgate, near Wallerawang, Joadja eek, Berrima, Mount Kembla, Burragorang, and Greta ; and also at lley Creek, near Murrurundi, in the Capertee district, and in the alley of the Wolgan River. The shale occurs in saucer-shaped deposits, arying in thickness from a few inches to 6 feet. It is a species of nnel-coal, similar to the Boghead mineral of Scotland, but yielding a uch larger percentage of volatile hydro-carbon than the Scotch mineral. he richest quality yields about 100 to 130 gallons of crude oil per ton, r 17,000 to 18,000 cubic feet of gas, with an illuminating power of irty-five to forty sperm candles when gas only is extracted from the hale. The specific gravity of the best Joadja Creek and Hartley shale 1·06, the amount of sulphur 0·49 per cent., and the yield of tar 40 allons per ton. It is found advantageous for mixing with ordinary al for the manufacture of gas, and is largely exported to Great ritain, America, and other foreign countries, as well as to the ighbouring Colonies, for gas purposes. On analysis the following sult was obtained from average specimens :—

Volatile Hydro-carbons, including moisture............	82·50	per cent.
Fixed Carbon	6·50	,,
Ash	11·00	,,

At present only two companies—the New South Wales Shale and Company and the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company— ork kerosene shale in the colony, their mines being situated at Hartley Vale, Genowlan, Ruined Castle, and Nellie's Glen, in the Western District ; and at Joadja, in the Southern district. These companies not nly raise shale for export, but also manufacture from it petroleum oil nd other products. The production of kerosene shale from the opening

of the mines in 1865 to the end of 1896 amounts to 895,334 t
the value of £1,795,213, as shown in the following table:—

Year.	Quantity.	Average price per ton.			Total value.
	tons.	£	s.	d.	£
1865-67	7,419	3	9	5	25,749
1868-72	58,772	2	13	9	157,886
1873-77	71,108	2	12	9	187,793
1878-82	152,050	1	18	8	293,729
1883	49,250	1	16	11	90,861
1884	31,618	2	5	8	72,176
1885	27,462	2	9	0	67,239
1886	43,563	2	5	11	99,976
1887	40,010	2	3	10	87,761
1888	34,869	2	2	3	73,612
1889	40,561	1	18	3	
1890	56,010	1	17	2	1
1891	40,349	1	18	9	
1892	74,197	1	16	8	1
1893	55,660	1	16	4	1
1894	21,171	1	10	0	
1895	59,426	1	5	4	
1896	31,839	1	1	6	
Total ...	895,334	2	0	1	1,7

The features of this table are the steady fall in the average p
the mineral and the fluctuating production. There is no special r
for the rise and fall in the quantity of shale produced from y
year beyond the irregularity in the orders coming forward for e
and the slackening of mining operations while the mineral at g
being reduced. It does not necessarily follow, either, that the
production of any one year is put to actual use. A certain prop
of second-grade mineral must be taken out with the first quality, a
there is only an outside demand for the higher grade, it de
altogether upon their ability to compete with the imported oil wh
the local companies make use of the second quality at all. The nu
of miners employed in the shale mines of the colony in 1896 wa
under ground and 66 above ground, or a total of 227.

DIAMONDS AND OTHER GEM-STONES.

The existence of diamonds and other gem-stones in the territ
New South Wales has been known for many years, but no attemp
made to work the deposits until the year 1872. In the course o
following year several deposits of diamantiferous wash were disco
in the country near Inverell, in the New England district.
number of diamonds found in the colony to the end of 1896 is esti
at 107,000, the largest being one of 5⅝ carats, or 16·2 grains.
diamonds occur in old tertiary river drifts, and in the more recent
derived from them. The deposits, which occur in the Inverell, Bi
Mittagong, Cudgegong, and Narrabri districts, are extensive, and
not yet been thoroughly prospected. The best of the New South
diamonds are harder and much whiter than the South African dian
and are classified as on a par with the best Brazilian gems. Durin
year 1889 the Malacca Company, near Tingha, found diamonds wei
2,195½ carats, valued at £878 5s. In 1891 no less than 12,000
of diamonds were won in the Tingha and Inverell districts, but no
is given. In 1892 as many as 2,250 diamonds were obtained fro

hristo Mine at Bingara alone. The majority of diamonds obtained
istrict weigh from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ carat, while the largest vary from 2 to
The total output of the Bingara district to the end of 1893
to have been about 150,000 carats, valued at £15,375. In
e only work done was prospecting in the Bingara, Mittagong
iison Town districts; and in 1895 the industry was still quiet,
Boggy Camp Diamond Field, 16 miles west of Tingha, a revival
ice during the year, and 4,100 stones, weighing in the aggregate
rats, and valued at £400, were obtained. No estimate of the
in 1896 were obtained from this field, but the output from the
diamond-field for the year is set down at 3,000 carats.
gem-stones, including the sapphire, emerald, oriental emerald,
pal, amethyst, garnet, chrysolite, topaz, cairngorm, onyx, zircon,
ve been found in the gold and tin-bearing drifts and river gravels
erous localities throughout the colony. The Emerald Proprietary
y, in the Emmaville district, have sunk two shafts, 100 ft. and
espectively; and 25,000 carats have been won in a rough state.
alue when cut and finished, if of the best quality, is about £2 per
Owing to the difficulties of extraction, and the low price of the
the London market, the mines have been closed for three years.
inest opal known is obtained in the Upper Cretaceous formation
te Cliffs, near Wilcannia, and at these mines over 400 men find
t employment. During the year 1895 good stone was found at
of 50 feet, and as the lower levels are reached the patches of
pear to improve in quality and to become more regular and
t. On block 7 a patch of stone was found which realised over
It is difficult to state with exactitude the value of the pro-
, but it is believed that stone to the value of £23,000 was sold
the three years ended 1895, while for 1896 alone the production
ated at £25,000. The quality of the stone found on the fields
considerably, some only realising 10s. per oz., whilst the best
occasionally realises as much as £42 per oz. The best market
gems is Germany, where they find a ready sale; but it is stated
principal gem merchants of Europe have now agents on the
the purchase of the stone.
es are obtained largely at Oban, in the Glen Innes division;
price obtained is very low, and only one sale, to the amount of
as reported during the year 1895. Turquoises have been
ed at Mount Lorigan, near Wagonga, and work was carried on
the year 1895 by means of aid granted from the Prospecting
In 1896, however, the mine was closed down.

MICA.

is known to exist in many parts of New South Wales, but has
et been worked, although there is a considerable demand for the
especially if in blocks of fairly large size that could easily be split
n plates. It is to be met with in the numerous granitic areas

that occur in various parts of the colony, especially in the co crystalline granitic formations in the Silverton district, and else in the Barrier Ranges.

ASBESTOS.

Asbestos has been found in veins in serpentine in the Gu Bathurst, and Barrier Range districts—in the last-named in consid quantities.

ALUNITE.

Alunite occurs as a large deposit at Bulladelah, about 35 miles Port Stephens, the yield averaging about 80 per cent. of alum. D 1896, 1,372 tons of alunite, valued at £4,116, were shipped to Eng where it is found that the stone can be treated more cheaply th possible locally, and in consequence the company's works at Bulla are closed.

MARBLE, BUILDING STONES, FIRE-CLAYS, AND SLATES.

The colony possesses a most abundant supply of all the various of stone and other materials for the building and adornment of its Marble limestone is found in great masses near Wallerawang, Bath Molong, Marulan, Tamworth, and Kempsey, localities which a within convenient distance of the great arteries of communication it is obtainable in all its different varieties. Marble quarries have opened at Cow Flat, Marulan, Wallerawang, Orange, and Tamw but only those of Cow Flat and Marulan are being worked. Gra found near Goulburn, Moruya, Trial Bay, and on Montagu Island, a as at many other places throughout the colony. Most of the g hitherto used in Sydney has been obtained from Moruya, a port 180 miles south of Sydney.

Limestone flux is supplied to the Broken Hill silver-mines quarries at Tarrawingie, which are connected with the mines by a way, 30 miles in length. The quantity so supplied during 189 74,057 tons, valued at £65,357; during 1892, 103,368 tons, valu £93,031; during 1893, 130,635 tons, valued at £111,041; during 89,990 tons, valued at £69,290; during 1895, 104,194 tons, valu £68,160; and during 1896, 88,924 tons, valued at £54,261. 120 men are employed in and about these quarries. A compan warded large quantities of limestone from Myall Lake to Sydn 1892, and commenced the manufacture of hydraulic lime; but ow the lack of a market for the product the operations were discontin

The Hawkesbury formation, over which the City of Sydney is provides the city with an inexhaustible supply of sandstone, highest quality for building purposes. This material is adm adapted for architectural effect, being of a pleasant colour, fine and very easily worked. The beauty of Sydney street architecture in no inconsiderable degree to the free use of this excellent sandst

Basalt or bluestone, which is extensively used as road metal a the ballasting of the railway lines, is obtained at Kiama, Pro ills, and Bowral. This stone has not yet been used to any uilding purposes.

a stone even harder than bluestone, is found at Bowral and s ; as a building material it is equal to granite in solidity, ranite, it takes a beautiful polish. The success which has ts first use as a building stone, together with the short om the metropolis at which it is to be found, will no doubt be extensively used in the future for large structures.

s being worked at Tichbourne, near Parkes. The clay is of ex- lity, and superior to the best obtained in England or France.

measures also contain numerous beds of fire-clays ; and in of the colony excellent clays, well adapted for brick-making re extensively worked. Slates are found in several districts, rincipally quarried at Gundagai and in the surrounding well as at Bathurst and Goulburn. It will be seen, there- he colony has no need to import building material of any , as it possesses a supply amply sufficient to provide for its and those of its neighbours.

e has been obtained at Undercliff, in the New England dis- a lode 6 ft. wide. It is of inferior quality.

PROSPECTING VOTE.

g the practice of the neighbouring colony of Victoria, the nt has for some years past devoted a sum annually to en- prospecting for gold, and in 1889 the conditions of the vote ended as to embrace all minerals. The amount set apart usually £20,000. For the year 1892, however, it was fixed hat sum ; and in 1896, £25,000. With the exception of the ysdale gold-field, which was discovered in 1892, it cannot be at any discovery of a large payable field has so far been made f the Prospecting Vote, but at the same time it may be said rich working claims have been opened up with the aid granted. ldition to the employment of labour, the proving of a lode or payable invariably leads to the taking up of large areas of land under the Mining Act, from which increased revenue is the State. From the year 1888 to the end of November, number of such discoveries reported to the Department of 173, while the amount expended in prospecting work during was £170,480.

desiring a grant from the vote have to satisfy the Prospecting t the locality proposed to be prospected is one likely to yield l sought for, and that the mode of operations is suitable for ry. Aid is given in deserving cases up to 50 per cent. of the he work done and of the necessary implements and materials. ho have been assisted from the vote are not entitled to claim d that may be offered for the discovery of any new gold or lds.

DIAMOND DRILLS.

The use of the diamond drill in searching for minerals dates only 1881, and boring by the Department of Mines commenced much The drills now in use belong for the most part to the State, and a to private persons on terms fixed by regulation, the charges £2 2s. on application, towards cost of inspection; £10 per we cost of diamonds and wear and tear of machinery from start of bo completion; wages of engineer and assistants; cost of tubes da destroyed, or which cannot be withdrawn from bores; all charg freight, etc., on machinery, both on being sent and returned; and all fuel and water necessary for working the drill. An abatem however, granted by the Mines Department in special cases. Ar ments may also be made for the work to be done at a fixed pric foot for various depths.

During the year 1896 the depth bored was 2,143 feet, the av cost per foot being 11s. $4\frac{13}{16}$d., as compared with 30s. $3\frac{7}{8}$d. in 1895. reduced rate was due to shallow boring and better strata. The ea of the diamond drills during 1896 amounted to £1,432, and the a paid into the Treasury as revenue from this source was £825. addition to the bores shown in the subjoined table, three bores wer down during 1896 at the island of Funafuti, in the Ellice Group, to more authentic scientific information in connection with coral beds

Locality.	Strata.	Mineral for which bored.	Total depth bored during 1896.		
			ft.	in.	s.
Captain's Flat, No. 1	Porphyry	Gold, silver, copper, and lead	247	0	11
,, No. 2			646	0	
Forest Reef, No. 1	Basalt	Gold	161	0	
,, No. 2			218	9	
,, No. 3			237	5	
,, No. 4			213	6	
,, No. 5			216	0	
,, No. 6			202	6	
Grassy Gully	Felsite	Auriferous quartz veins.	Commenced at close of year.		

Owing principally to the financial depression, the use of the dia drill fell off considerably, the depth bored during 1895 having 299 feet; during 1894, 557 feet; during 1893, 1,903 feet; during 1 4,139 feet; and during 1891, 7,797 feet. New regulations, under w the use of the diamond drill can be made available at an almost no cost in basaltic or other mineral country which has not been prospe and which is either too hard, wet, or deep, and, therefore, too expe for sinking, were published in the course of 1896, and during that the total depth bored increased to 2,143 feet, as already stated.

LAND LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

THE systems adopted for the settlement of population on the lands of New South Wales have been many, and they have differed widely at various stages of the colony's progress. In the early days of colonization the Governor had the sole power of granting lands, which he did under prescribed conditions, such as the payment of an annual quit-rent, the cultivation of a certain proportion of the area granted, and other services specified in instructions received from time to time from the Secretary of State. The first instructions issued to Governor Phillip, on the 25th April, 1787, authorized him to make grants only to emancipated prisoners, in the following terms:—"To every male shall be granted 30 acres of land, and in case he shall be married, 20 acres more; and for every child who may be with them at the time of making the said grant, a further quantity of 10 acres, free of all fees, taxes, quit-rents, and other acknowledgments for the space of ten years." The annual quit-rent to be paid on these grants was afterwards fixed at 6d. for 30 acres. The first settler was a prisoner of the name of James Ruse, who, having completed his sentence, entered on his farm of 30 acres at Parramatta on the 25th February, 1789.

Additional instructions were issued by the Secretary of State on 20th August, 1789, extending the privilege of obtaining grants to such of the non-commissioned officers and men of the detachment of marines serving in New South Wales as were desirous of remaining in the territory after obtaining their discharge. The Governor was further requested to facilitate the settlement of free persons who might be disposed to emigrate with the view of becoming settlers in the colony, by giving them grants of land not exceeding the maximum area granted to non-commissioned officers, viz., 100 acres, subject to the same quit-rent, the annual amount of which was 1s. for every fifty acres, payable at the expiration of five years after the issue of a grant. In the original instructions no mention was made of grants to officers, but this omission was afterwards rectified. These early grants were made on condition that a certain proportion of the land should be cultivated, but although this condition was not always complied with, no grants were ever cancelled in consequence. As to the payment of quit-rents, Mr. Commissioner Bigge, in his report on the administration of Governor Macquarie, states that from 1809 to 1823 no quit-rents were collected.

With regard to settlement in the town of Sydney, grants w
made until the year 1811, when the necessary authority to do so wa
in a letter from the Secretary of State, dated the 26th July, and allo
were granted on lease only for periods of fourteen or twenty-one
Previous to the building regulations issued by Governor Macqu
the 18th August, 1810, no attention was paid to the regular adm
ment of town allotments or to the formation of streets.

Quit-rents on leases and grants of town allotments varied in
according to the Governor at whose discretion they were in
Leases of fourteen and twenty-one years were subject to annu
rents of 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 20s. each; and from 1811 to 1814
of town allotments were charged at the rate of 2s. 6d. per
annum; but on the 21st March, 1814, the following scale of qu
for town allotments was established by Governor Macquarie :—

Gradation.	Leases.		Grants.	
	Sydney.	Other Towns.	Sydney.	Oth
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Maximum	2 0 0	1 0 0	3 0 0	2
Minimum	0 10 0	0 10 0	1 0 0	0
Above 20 rods, per additional rod, but not exceeding the maximum..	0 0 2	0 0 1	0 0 4	0

The method of disposing of Crown lands, and the scale of qu
chargeable, suffered no alteration until the issue of the Governm
General Order of the 5th November, 1823. By this order th
upon which lands could be obtained in New South Wales were m
the annual quit-rent being raised to 3s. for every 20 acres,
immediately if the lands had been obtained as an additional gra
if otherwise at the commencement of the sixth year.

Though a certain limit appears to have been fixed as to the
grants, the early Governors often overstepped their instructions
direction. Governor Macquarie, in particular, was deemed to h
posed of the Crown lands in too liberal a fashion, and the resul
investigation into his administration led the British Government
to his successors instructions of a more definite and stringent cl
with regard to the alienation of Crown lands.

The instructions to Sir Thomas Brisbane introduced the p
of alienation of lands by sale to free settlers who arrived
colony with a certain amount of available capital, and the gran
made on condition that a certain proportion of the land sh
cultivated, or improvements of corresponding value erected
and a given number of convicts maintained free of expense
Government. On the 8th November, 1824, it was further pro
that a grant of 100 acres would be given to any settler fo
convict maintained by him free of expense to the Governme
applications for grants under this condition became so freque
the order was rescinded on the 16th March, 1826. By a Gove

General Order, dated the 24th March, 1825, land was allowed to be by private tender at a minimum price of 5s. per acre. The order ified that the Governor would receive applications for the sale of te lands; but no person was permitted to purchase more than 4,000 es, nor any family more than 5,000 acres. The price of unlocated wn lands in the county of Cumberland, or of any of the lands situated the west of the Nepean River, was raised to a rate ranging from 6d. to 10s. per acre. The disposal of lands by sale did not, however, terfere with the ordinary method of alienating town allotments and untry lands by grants subject to the payment of quit-rents.

The progress of settlement, and the extension of the pastoral industry hich was already taking place) rendered it necessary that some classiation of lands should be made in accordance with natural adaptability to e various purposes of colonization. On the 18th May, 1825, instructions ere received from the Secretary of State, directing that the colony ould be divided into counties, hundreds, and parishes, and that a aluation should be made of the lands throughout the territory, with a ew of fixing an average price at which all the disposable lands should e put up for sale. The grants made thereafter, within the limits in which ttlement was allowed, were subject to the payment of a quit-rent of 15s. r every 100 acres, redeemable at twenty years' purchase. Three Land ommissioners (of whom Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, as President) were appointed on the 10th January, 1826, to give effect to ese instructions. The Commissioners completed their labours in about ree years, and divided the territory into nineteen counties, covering me 34,505 square miles, or 22,083,200 acres of land. During is period certain modifications were introduced; the sale of land was spended, and the quit-rents charged on grants were altered to a rate f 5 per cent. per annum on the value fixed by the Commissioners, hilst on grants in extension of previous grants, and on lands reserved settlers for their choice of purchase, a charge was made at the rate f 20s. per 100 acres. On the 28th August, 1828, the quit-rent on rimary grants was altered to an annual sum of 2d. per acre, and this te remained in force until grants were abolished except for public rposes, and the principle of sale by public auction, in lieu of private der, was made the sole means of alienating Crown lands. The Land ommission was abolished on the 6th May, 1830.

Great difficulty has been experienced in determining the area granted d sold by private tender from the date of the first settlement to the ar 1831, when the system of land alienation by auction sale was troduced; but it has been ascertained from authentic sources that e following areas were disposed of as under:—

	Acres.
Area granted by Governors up to 1810	177,500
do Governor Macquarie, 1810–23..............	400,000
Area granted and sold 1824–31	3,386,250
Total	3,963,750

From this total, however, there should be deducted 57,423 acres o granted in Van Diemen's Land, reducing to 3,906,327 acres th granted and sold within the present limits of New South Wales.

The system of granting land upon the payment of an annu rent was at all times subject to many difficulties, and the collec these dues appears to have been carried out in a very perfunctory m These difficulties led the Government in later years to offer special i ments for the redemption of quit-rents. On the 9th October, 18 following notice was proclaimed:—"All lands for which twenty quit-rent has been paid shall be free from further charge, an persons who have paid more than twenty years' quit-rent shall ha difference refunded to them." On the 30th July, 1849, it was f notified that at any time thenceforward any person might redee future quit-rent by an equivalent cash payment. Finally, a Govern notice of the 13th May, 1851, directed that all quit-rents of a h annual rental than 2s. for every 100 acres would be reduced t uniform rate at the expiration of the year 1851; and also th quit-rents on allotments in country towns would be reduced to one-f of the rate fixed in the deeds of grant, with the power of redem at twenty years' purchase.

With regard to allotments in Sydney and other large towns, w were either granted or leased under the regulations establishe Governor Macquarie, the rates levied by him in 1814 were first al by Sir Thomas Brisbane as follow:—

On leases for twenty-one years	6d. per rod.
On town grants	9d. ,,

A Government order, dated the 29th March, 1829, established the lowing regulations:—"Upon the approval of applications for town al ments a grant of the *fee simple* will be given, it being the intentio the Government not to issue leases in the future. The rates of ann quit-rents in the several classes of towns shall be as follow:—

1. Sydney	6d. per sq. perch.
2. Seaport towns	5d. ,,
3. Towns at the head of navigable rivers	4d. ,,
4. Inland towns	2d. ,,

The said quit-rents shall be unredeemable for ever, but they shall commence until seven years after the date of authority to take posses except in the towns of Parramatta and Windsor." Leases were, howe re-established by a Government notice of the 25th August, 1834, which allotments were allowed to be leased in the country towns o with covenant to convert the same into grants either upon paymen twenty-one years' quit-rent or upon the erection of buildings to value of £1,000.

INTRODUCTION OF LAND SALES.

alienation of land to settlers by grant was abolished by Viscount ch, Secretary of State for the Colonies. Under the Government neral Order dated the 14th February, 1831, it was notified that wn lands were to be disposed of otherwise than by public compethe minimum price being fixed at 5s. per acre. Settlers were l to select within the settled districts only, and the land thus d was submitted to auction and sold to the highest bidder, the r being generally the purchaser. In 1839 the upset price was to 12s. per acre, and the practice was introduced of varying this um according to the presumed value of the land, making it, as a l rule, from 10 to 20 per cent. less than the price of the last land the same quality, and in the same locality. In the Port Phillip t, land was only brought to sale at the discretion of the Governor. il the year 1841 regulations for the sale of land were issued by cretary of State; but on the 21st August of that year additional tions were forwarded to Sir George Gipps, stating that in future ld be competent for the Governor, with the advice of the Execuouncil, to revoke the order in force, and to substitute regulaassed by the Colonial Government with regard to the disposal lic lands.

ough grants had been virtually abolished in 1831, a certain ty of land was still being conveyed to settlers in virtue of pronade by former Governors. The following figures show the area l granted and sold during the period 1832–1840 :—

	Area granted.	Area sold.	Year.	Area granted.	Area sold.
	acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.
	15,843	20,860	1837	6,090	370,288
	14,639	29,001	1838	63,160	277,466
	27,861	91,400	1839	16,832	234,272
	5,271	271,947	1840	5,243	105,900
	16,132	389,546			

ddition to the above, there were sold in the district of Port , or the Southern District, in—

1837	88 acres.
1838	38,694 ,,
1839	38,347 ,,
1840	83,888 ,,

ew division of the territory had been made under the Land tions issued by the Governor and Executive Council on the une, 1841, the Northern District including the country around n Bay; the Middle District, the nineteen settled counties; e Southern District, the Port Phillip settlement and Gipps- In the Middle and Northern Districts the upset price was

maintained at 12s. per acre, but it was raised to 20s. per acre
Port Phillip District. These Regulations were again superse
an Act of the Imperial Parliament, entitled "An Act for reg
the sale of waste lands belonging to the Crown in the Au
colonies," which came into force on the 22nd June, 1842. Un
Act the principle of sale at auction was maintained, but th
applied for were to be surveyed before being put up at qu
sale, the upset price being fixed at 20s. per acre, payable fo
Blocks of unsurveyed land, containing 20,000 acres or more,
however, be sold in one lot by private contract at not less th
minimum price.

Under the Imperial Act of the 9th March, 1847, amending the
new classification of lands took place, and the territory was again
into—first, settled districts, including the nineteen counties, and th
in the counties of Stanley and Port Phillip immediately surroun
settlements at Moreton Bay and Melbourne respectively; second
mediate districts, comprising a belt of land from 50 to 200 miles
beyond the boundaries of the settled districts, and in which p
occupation had already spread; and, third, unsettled districts, ext
westward to the extreme limits of the colony. This amending Act
affect the disposal of Crown lands by public auction or private co
but it introduced a system of leasing the lands for pastoral pu
for various terms, in each of the three divisions. During the curr
a lease the land was saleable only to the lessee, and after the exp
of the term the lessee was also allowed a pre-emptive right over
any part of the land at the upset price of £1 per acre. The leg
of 1847 remained in force in New South Wales, as regards the
of public lands by auction sale at £1 per acre, until the year 18
in the colonies of Victoria and Queensland, which were separat
the mother colony in 1851 and 1859 respectively, until repealed
of the local Parliaments. The following table shows the area of l
and granted in New South Wales from the year 1841 to 1861 in
under the regulations above described :—

Year.	Area granted.	Area sold.	Year.	Area granted.	Are
	acres.	acres.		acres.	
1841	18	31,275	1852	57	2
1842	15	5,713	1853	612	6
1843	7	4,037	1854	2,085	7
1844	28	3,701	1855	297	1
1845	34	3,763	1856	227	1
1846	64	3,036	1857	85	1
1847	834	2,602	1858	444	1
1848	112	3,232	1859	518	1
1849	861	7,341	1860	193	1
1850	548	12,191	1861	459	1
1851	103	21,747			

1841 to 1851 there were also granted and sold in the Port istrict the following areas :—

Area granted.	Area sold.	Year.	Area granted.	Area sold.
acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.
......	61,197	1846	6	4,578
4	27	1847	17	26,073
3	831	1848	2	18,007
......	181	1849	46	28,091
......	3,685	1850	108	40,043

District of Moreton Bay the following areas were sold and from its first settlement in 1842 to its separation in 1859 :—

Area granted.	Area sold.	Year.	Area granted.	Area sold.
acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.
2	11	1851	5	2,282
16	360	1852	105	739
5	378	1853	70	7,805
1	299	1854	......	5,175
......	70	1855	......	5,285
......	51	1856	195	3,802
2	240	1857	8	7,235
8	825	1858	9	14,063
4	249	1859	......	11,620

from the foundation of the colony to the inauguration of the on of 1861, public lands, both in the mother colony and in itories administered from Sydney, had been disposed of as :—

Period.	In New South Wales proper.	In Van Diemen's Land.	In Port Phillip District.	In Moreton Bay District.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
7 to 1823	520,077	57,423	....	......
4 to 1836	4,268,750	....	....	......
e first settlement in Port in 1837 to 1841	1,110,544	....	222,214	......
first settlement in Moreton 1842 to the separation of hillip in 1850	48,119	....	121,702	2,521
1 to the separation of More- in 1859	899,283	....	....	58,398
60–61	299,806	....	....	......
m 1787 to 1861 inclusive ...	7,146,579	57,423	343,916	60,919

As regards the area granted and sold in New South Wales under the various systems described in the preceding pag 7,146,579 acres disposed of from the first day of the occupation territory to the end of the year 1861 were alienated as follows :-

1. By grants and sales by private tender to close of 1831	3
2. ,, ,, in virtue of promises of early Governors made prior to 1831, from 1832–40 inclusive	
3. ,, sales at auction, at 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. per acre, from 1832-38 inclusive	1
4. ,, ,, ,, ,, 12s. and over per acre, at Governor's discretion, from 1839–41 inclusive	
5. ,, ,, ,, ,, 20s. per acre, from 1842–46 inclusive	
6. ,, ,, ,, and by purchases in virtue of pre-emptive rights, from 1847–61 inclusive	1
7. ,, grants for public purposes, and for grants in virtue of promise of Governor made prior to the year 1831, and grants in exchange for lands resumed from 1841–61 inclusive	
Total alienated on 31st December, 1861	7

In dealing with the constitution of rural property in the it is necessary to mention that, in addition to the modes of ali of the public lands already described, certain grants were under special enactments. Instructions issued to Sir Thomas B directed the Governor to reserve one-seventh of the Crown lands county for the purpose of church and school establishments, bu instructions do not seem to have been fully carried out, as the r tions did not amount to anything like the proportional area sp These reserves were as follow :—County of Bathurst, 136,157 Camden, 11,428 acres; Cumberland, 28,081 acres; Cook, 100 Durham, 29,453 acres; Gloucester, 176,091 acres; Hunter, 2,314 Northumberland, 15,362 acres; Roxburgh, 1,000 acres; a Vincent, 43,500 acres; making a total area of 443,486 acres, subsequent surveys and computation of the area within the li the reservations show to be actually 454,050 acres. These land administered by the Clergy and School Lands Corporation un abolition of that body by Order of Council of the 4th February whereupon all lands vested in the same reverted to the Crow an agent was appointed to determine the claims of purchasers, t deeds of grant were made, the said lands being secured to the subsequent Act of Council dated the 5th August, 1834. Of t mentioned above, 171,746 acres were alienated up to the yea when, by the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of that y balance of 282,304 acres came under the control of that Dep administered for the purposes of Public Instruction. The unsold h and School Lands thus transferred are situated as follow :— County of Gloucester, 172,297 acres; Bathurst, 83,649 acres ; St. nt, 18,229 acres ; Cumberland, 3,973 acres ; Durham, 3,361 acres ; umberland, 744 acres ; Hunter, 48 acres ; and Camden, 3 acres.

Australian Agricultural Company was incorporated by an Act of mperial Parliament, dated the 21st June, 1824, and a promise of a t of 1,000,000 acres made to this Company was fulfilled in the fol- g year. Originally a grant containing 1,048,960 acres was selected country surrounding Port Stephens, but in 1832 the Company uthorised to exchange a portion of this grant, containing 600,000 , for two allotments situated on the Peel River and on the pool Plains. These three grants contain, according to the latest ys, the following areas :—

	Acres.
Port Stephens Estate, county of Gloucester.........	464,640
Peel River Estate, county of Parry	249,600
Warrah Estate, county of Buckland	313,298
Total..................	1,027,538

addition to this large area of land, the Company also obtained the Crown the promise of a lease of the coal-fields at Port Hunter castle) for 31 years. This was, however, afterwards exchanged grant of 500 acres, an area which was increased in 1828 to 2,000 of coal land, upon which the Company's collieries are now situated.

OCCUPATION OF PASTORAL LANDS.

e pastoral lands of New South Wales have been occupied under systems. Land was held for grazing in the early days by of tickets of occupation, which ceased to be issued on the 1st May, , after which date persons holding such lands were required to pay t-rent of 20s. per 100 acres per annum, and to vacate the land at onths' notice. The requirements of the settlers for depasturing r increasing stock induced them to occupy Crown lands without any t except that of first discovery, and as they extended their opera- inland the Legislature found itself compelled, on the 28th August, , to pass an Act protecting Crown lands from intrusion and trespass, commissioners were appointed for the purpose of safeguarding the rests of the State.

discovery of new country soon had the effect of taking many of the squatters beyond the limits of settlement as proclaimed on the 14th

October, 1829, and without authority or license large tracts of un Crown lands were occupied. Fresh regulations, in which severe p were enacted, were issued on the 29th July, 1836, with the view of ing this unauthorised occupation of the waste lands of the colony. regulations being in many cases disregarded, an Act was passed 22nd March, 1839, to further restrain this unauthorised occupati to provide the means for defraying the expense of police and sioners appointed by the Government to protect its estate border districts, a yearly assessment was levied upon stock at lowing rates:—½d. for every sheep; 1½d. per head of cattle; for every horse.

The Imperial Act of the 9th March, 1847, which rendered it for the Queen, by any Order in Council, to make and establish lations as should seem meet for the sale and occupation of the lands, was immediately followed by an order introducing an different system in legislation for the pastoral occupation of New South Wales. Hitherto the tenure had been a yearly one, fee was paid on the extent of land occupied by the squatter. system was substituted fixity of tenure of lease, and the lic was calculated upon the stock-carrying capacity of the run. the regulations issued in 1847, the term of the pastoral le the unsettled districts was fixed at fourteen years; in the mediate division this term was reduced to eight years; and settled districts the yearly tenure was retained. The licensing charged at the rate of £10 for 4,000 sheep, or a proportional of cattle—which was the minimum at which the stock-carryin bilities of a run could be assessed—and £2 10s. for every ad 1,000 sheep, or proportionate number of cattle, which the r estimated to carry. In the settled districts lands were let for purposes only, in sections of not less than 1 square mile in a annual rental for each section being fixed at 10s. The holders ated lands were permitted to depasture their stock upon Crow adjoining their holdings free of charge, this permission, however, tuting only a commonage right. The Occupation Act of 1861 abolished the Orders in Council, inaugurated a new system, the tenure of pastoral leases to five years in the unsettled an mediate or second-class settled districts, and leaving the whole pastoral leases open to the operations of the free selectors. Th resulting from this system led Parliament to adopt in 1884, 18 finally in 1895, the measures at present in force, the provisions o are described further on.

ROBERTSON'S LANDS ACT.

The conditions of colonization greatly altered under the powerfu tion of the gold-fields, and after the first excitement of the rush had died out the question of land settlement had to be dealt wit

ly new spirit, to meet the wants of a class of immigrants of a different
from those contemplated by former enactments, the result being the
ng of the Crown Lands Act of 1861, under the leadership of Sir
Robertson. Before this Act became law the conditions of settlement
ered it difficult for men of small means to establish themselves with
r chance of success. The new measure aimed at facilitating the settle-
of an industrial agricultural population side by side with the pastoral
nts, and with this view the Act introduced a principle entirely new
e land legislation of the colony, namely, that of free selection, in
ed areas, *before survey*. To this privilege was attached the condition
na fide residence, and the land was to be sold at a fixed price,
ing interest on the balance outstanding, after deducting the amount
e deposit, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. This provision,
ver, was modified by the Amending Act of 1875, under which
al instalments were payable, and the option was given to any con-
nal purchaser of lands taken up prior to this amendment to avail
lf of the change in the method of payment. The system of uncon-
nal sales was, however, continued under the Act of 1861; and
g the twenty-three years in which this Act was in operation there
sold 23,470,140 acres conditionally, and 15,572,001 acres by auction,
vement purchase, in virtue of pre-emptive right, or otherwise
ut conditions, the total area alienated being 39,042,141 acres. In
large number of cases the land selected or purchased reverted to
tate, so that the absolute area sold or in process of sale when the
f 1884 came into force amounted to only 32,819,023 acres, besides
,579 acres alienated prior to 1861.

THE CROWN LANDS ACTS OF 1884 AND 1889.

e Act of 1861 was, after many amendments, superseded by that
84, with the supplementary enactment of 1889. Though differ-
widely from the former Act in many important particulars, these
ures maintained the principle of free selection before survey, but
one essential difference. Under the original Act the whole area
e Crown lands of the colony was thrown open to free selection,
he lands held under pastoral lease were not exempted from the
tion of this law. While maintaining the principle of selection before
y, the aims of the Acts of 1884 and 1889 were to give fixity of tenure
pastoral lessees and to obtain a larger rental from the public lands,
same time restricting the area sold unconditionally. For this
urpose the holder of a pastoral lease under the old Act was
ed to surrender one half of his lease, which was resumed by the
for subsequent alienation, leasehold or reserve; the other half
ning in the leasehold occupation of the pastoralist under fixity of
for a term of years. It was computed on the 31st December,

1884, when this division was made, that there were within the colon
4,313 leased runs, yielding an annual rental in round figures of £268,
and forming about 1,600 "stations," estimated to contain the bulk
the unalienated public estate, after allowing for reserves, etc. That
increase in the revenue from pastoral occupation, which was one of
principal objects of the alterations introduced in the land legislation
the Act of 1884, has been realised, may be gathered from the fact
during the financial year 1896–7 the total rental received from
occupation of Crown lands amounted to £719,391. The Act of 1
became law on the 1st January, 1885, and that of 1889 came i
operation on the 1st December of that year.

THE CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1895.

Whatever may have been the merits of the Act of 1861, it c
spicuously failed to encourage *bona fide* settlement; nor can it be
that the legislation of 1884 and 1889 succeeded where the original A
had failed, as the accumulation of land in large estates continued, wh
settlement, properly so called, proceeded very slowly. Expert opini
strongly pointed to the necessity of introducing entirely new princip
into the agrarian legislation of the colony, and this has been d
in the Crown Lands Act of 1895, which not merely remedies t
defects of previous legislation, but, while placing land within
reach of all, seems to supply, by the introduction of new systems
tenure, viz., homestead selections and settlement leases, something t
was needed to transform the land speculators into settlers prop
so called.

For the purpose of carrying out land legislation, there are three La
Divisions in the colony, viz., the Eastern, the Central, and the Wester
These are subdivided into Land Districts; and a Land Agent, wh
duty it is to receive applications for land in accordance with cert
regulations, resides in each district. Groups of these districts are j
together under an administrative Board, and form what is called a L
Land Board District. The Land Board consists of a chairman and one
two ordinary members. An appeal to the Land Appeal Court m
be made against a decision of the Board. This Court is composed o
President and two Commissioners appointed by the Executive, wh
decisions in matters of administration have the force of judgments
the Supreme Court; but whenever questions of law become involved
case may be submitted to the Supreme Court, either at the writ
request of the parties interested, or by the Land Appeal Court acting
its own accord. The judgments given on such appeals are, howe
subject to final determination by the Privy Couucil. The conditions
alienation and pastoral occupation of Crown lands differ in each of
three divisions of the colony.

Eastern Division has an area of 60,450,000 acres, and includes a
belt of land comprised between the sea-coast and a line nearly
l thereto. This line starts from a point midway between the
ettlements of Bonshaw and Bengalla on the Dumaresq River, on
rthern frontier, and terminates at Howlong on the River Murray,
us embraces the coastal district of the colony, as well as the
rn and southern tablelands. In this division lie all the original
of settlement, and the markets of the colony are more readily
ble to it than to the other districts. In it, moreover, is to be
some of the best agricultural land in New South Wales. For these
s, the conditions for the purchase and occupation of the Crown
n the Eastern Division are more restricted than is the case in the
l and Western Divisions.

Central Division of the colony embraces an area of 55,460,000
extending from north to south between the western limit of the
n Division and a line starting from a point on the Macintyre River,
it is crossed by the 149th meridian of east longitude, and following
er and the Darling to the junction of Mara Creek; thence along
eek to the Bogan River, and across to the River Lachlan, between
wnships of Euabalong and Condobolin, along the Lachlan to Bal-
, and thence to the junction of the Edward River with the Murray,
frontier of Victoria. The Central Division thus embraces the
basin of the Darling River in the northern part of the colony,
rtions of those of the Lachlan, the Murrumbidgee, and the other
ts of the Murray in the south. The land in this division is
devoted to pastoral pursuits; but experience having proved that
lture can be successfully carried on, the area cultivated has con-
bly increased. The rainfall, however, being less regular, and
stance from markets greater than in the Eastern Division, and
nd, moreover, being of inferior value, the legislation provides for
ection of larger areas than in the latter district.

Western Division comprises the whole of the land situated between
stern limit of the Central Division and the South Australian border.
races an area of 79,972,150 acres, watered by the Darling River
s tributaries. This part of New South Wales is essentially
d to pastoral pursuits. Water conservation and irrigation may
e counteract climatic conditions and irregular rainfall, and make
lture possible over this large area, as its soil is adapted to the
of any kind of crop; but legislation in regard to the occupation
lands of the district is based upon the assumption that for
years to come there will be little inducement for agricultural
ent.

ler the provisions of the various Acts forming the legislation now
e, land may be acquired as an alienation in the following manner:—
conditional purchase; (2) by auction sale; (3) by purchase in
of improvements; (4) by special purchase; and (5) by exchange.
ost important of these forms is that of conditional purchase.

The new system of homestead selections is practically a fo
alienation, the tenure being freehold, subject to an annual cha
perpetuity.

With regard to the leasing of Crown lands, the different fo
occupation are—(1) Conditional leases; (2) settlement leases; (3) im
ment leases; (4) pastoral leases; (5) homestead leases; (6) occup
licenses; (7) annual leases; (8) scrub and inferior land leases; (9) sno
leases; (10) residential leases on mining-fields; (11) mineral leases
special leases; and (13) artesian-well leases.

Conditional Purchases.—An ordinary residential conditional pur
may be obtained in the Eastern and Central Land Divisions, but
the Western Division, by any person of or over the age of 16 years,
the usual legal qualifications. Ordinary Crown lands are open to sel
at a price of £1 per acre. A deposit of 2s. per acre and a surve
according to a fixed scale, must be paid at the time of application.
balance, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, is paya
thirty instalments of 1s. per acre, covering principal and interes
first instalment being due at the expiration of the third year. I
Eastern Division the maximum area which can be selected is 640
and the minimum 40 acres; in the Central Division the maxim
2,560 acres. Every residential conditional purchase carries with
right of taking up a conditional lease, which, however, cannot exceed
times the area of the conditional purchase, and the total area of
purchase and lease cannot exceed 1,280 acres in the Eastern Di
or 2,560 acres in the Central Division.

The holder is required to reside upon his selection for a conti
term of ten years from the date of application, and residence
commence within three months after the application has been conf
by the Local Land Board. Within three years from the date on
the application is confirmed the land must be enclosed with such a
as the Board may prescribe; or, at the selector's own option, subst
and permanent improvements may be substituted for fencing.
cation may also be made for the suspension of the conditions of resi
and of fencing or improvements for a period not exceeding six mo
or the suspension of payment of instalments for a period not exce
twelve months may be granted by the Minister, but in this ca
selector must reside on the land.

Additional purchases may be made until the maximum area is re
and each additional conditional purchase is subject to the cond
of residence, but the place of residence may be on any of the
selected, and in certain cases the additional residence is not insisted

At the expiration of five and ten years from the date of applic
inquiries are made by the Land Board, and if the conditions have
satisfactorily fulfilled certificates are issued. A conditional pu
may be transferred after the issue of the first certificate—that is,
five years' residence. After the issue of a certificate of conformit

se of land of 100 acres or more in extent may be subdivided, the e paid on a portion, not less than 40 acres, and the deed obtained it part.

following table shows the total amount payable as principal iterest every year on a selection of 40 acres, the price of which, t interest, is £40. It will be seen that the amount of interest le is £24 3s., making a total of £64 3s., or £1 12s. 1d. per

When due.	Payments.			How each payment is applied.						Balance owing.			Amount upon which interest is charged.		
				Interest, 4 % for 1 year.			Principal.								
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
t of 2s. per acre.............	4	0	0	......			4	0	0	36	0	0	......		
ent of 1s. per acre at end of 3rd year ...	2	0	0	......			2	0	0	34	0	0	......		
,, 4th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	7	2	0	12	10	33	7	2	34	0	0
,, 5th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	6	9	0	13	3	32	13	11	33	7	2
,, 6th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	6	2	0	13	10	32	0	1	32	13	11
,, 7th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	5	7	0	14	5	31	5	8	32	0	1
,, 8th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	5	0	0	15	0	30	10	8	31	5	8
,, 9th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	4	5	0	15	7	29	15	1	30	10	8
,, 10th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	3	10	0	16	2	28	18	11	29	15	1
,, 11th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	3	2	0	16	10	28	2	1	28	18	11
,, 12th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	2	5	0	17	7	27	4	6	28	2	1
,, 13th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	1	10	0	18	2	26	6	4	27	4	6
,, 14th ,, ..	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	18	11	25	7	5	26	6	4
,, 15th ,, ...	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	19	9	24	7	8	25	7	5
,, 16th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	19	6	1	0	6	23	7	2	24	7	8
,, 17th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	18	8	1	1	4	22	5	10	23	7	2
,, 18th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	17	10	1	2	2	21	3	8	22	5	10
,, 19th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	17	0	1	3	0	20	0	8	21	3	8
,, 20th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	16	0	1	4	0	18	16	8	20	0	8
,, 21st ,, ...	2	0	0	0	15	1	1	4	11	17	11	9	18	16	8
,, 22nd ,, ...	2	0	0	0	14	1	1	5	11	16	5	10	17	11	9
,, 23rd ,, ...	2	0	0	0	13	0	1	7	0	14	18	10	16	5	10
,, 24th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	12	0	1	8	0	13	10	10	14	18	10
,, 25th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	10	10	1	9	2	12	1	8	13	10	10
,, 26th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	9	7	1	10	5	10	11	3	12	1	8
,, 27th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	8	6	1	11	6	8	19	9	10	11	3
,, 28th ,, ..	2	0	0	0	7	2	1	12	10	7	6	11	8	19	9
,, 29th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	5	11	1	14	1	5	12	10	7	6	11
,, 30th ,, ...	2	0	0	0	4	6	1	15	6	3	17	4	5	12	10
,, 31st ,, ...	2	0	0	0	4	1	1	15	11	2	0	5	3	17	4
,, 32nd ,, ...	2	0	0	0	1	7	1	18	5	0	2	0	2	0	5
ial payment....................	0	3	0	......			0	3	0	......			......		
Total	64	3	0	24	3	0	40	0	0	......			......		

a the course of the year 1896, however, an Act was passed for the f of holders of conditional purchasers who found the ordinary rate ayment too burdensome. Under this Act the Minister for Lands

ance the annual instalment of 1s. per acre
ways provided that under the reduced
money with the interest thereon will be exti
from the date when the first instalm
deposit became due. The conditional pur
ract is requested must form part of the ho
resides, unless the Minister is satisfied
land *bona fide* for his own use, and is no
the original rate, and is not the holder of
cessary for the maintenance of a family.

Conditional Purchases.—Any person of or
has never taken up an ordinary residential co
take up a non-residential conditional purchase
the Central Land Division. The maximum ar
conditions are the same in both divisions. T
the amount of the deposit and of the instalm
ixed for an ordinary residential conditional purch
survey fees is the same. This form of selection
purchaser to hold a conditional lease. The land
within twelve months from the date of confirmati
years from that date the holder must satisfy the Bo
improvements (not including the boundary fenci
to the value of £1 per acre. If the substitution of
in lieu of fencing be obtained in connection wit
onditional purchase, the sum expended must be at
acre. The only addition which a holder can ma
by increasing it to the maximum area.

Purchases within Special Areas.—Special areas
from the operations of the ordinary conditional purchas
and thrown open to selection under different te
with or without the condition of residence; but
the price of the land cannot be less than £1 10s.
elect to fulfil the condition of residence, whil
purchaser is charged double that price. The maxim
areas that may be selected within special areas ar
in the proclamation throwing the lands open, but the m
ceed 320 acres in the Eastern Division, nor 640
al and Western Divisions. The deposit required
the proclamation, being generally one-tenth of the p
ments are one half the amount of the deposit. As in
conditional purchases, the Relief Act of 1896 has
Lands power to reduce the rate of instalments p
three quarters or one half. The conditions to be ful
those of the ordinary residential and non-residen
purchases. Conditional leases of ordinary land **can**
of conditional purchases within special **areas, but o**
Division.

ollowing is the scale of survey fees for conditional purchases of cription :—

Area.	For an Original Conditional Purchase.			For an Additional Conditional Purchase or Conditional Lease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
area not exceeding 4 acres.	1	0	0	0	15	0
y additional acre, or fraction of an acre, up to cres	0	3	4	0	2	6
cres	2	0	0	1	10	0
y additional acre, or fraction of an acre, up to cres	0	2	0	0	1	6
cres .... -	3	0	0	2	5	0
y additional acre, or fraction of an acre, up to cres	0	1	0	0	0	9
cres	4	0	0	3	0	0
y additional 5 acres, or fraction of 5 acres, up 0 acres	0	2	6	0	1	10½
cres	5	0	0	3	15	0
y additional 10 acres, or fraction of 10 acres, to 320 acres	0	2	6	0	1	10½
acres	8	0	0	6	0	0
y additional 15 acres, or fraction of 15 acres, to 640 acres	0	2	6	0	1	10½
acres	10	15	0	8	1	3
y additional 20 acres, or fraction of 20 acres, to 1,280 acres	0	2	6	0	1	10½
0 acres	14	15	0	11	1	3
y additional 40 acres, or fraction of 40 acres, to 2,560 acres	0	2	6	0	1	10½
0 acres	18	15	0	14	1	3

itional purchases and conditional leases may be converted into ead selections, on terms stated under the latter heading.

ion Sales.—Crown lands may be submitted for sale by auction Land Division, but not more than 200,000 acres can be thus ed in any one year. The area of town lots is limited to half- each, and the upset price cannot be less than £8 per acre; an lots cannot be sold in areas exceeding 20 acres, or at a lower price than £2 10s. per acre; country lots cannot exceed 640 nd the minimum upset price is 25s. per acre. Under ordinary sales the payment must be completed within three months, but ements may be made under a system of deferred payments, the m prices, however, not being less than those given above. In ase a deposit of 25 per cent. must be paid, and the payments extend over a longer period than five years. Deferred payments terest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Improvement Purchases.—Persons who, by virtue of a miner'
or business license issued under the Mining Act, are in autl
occupation of and residing on land within a proclaimed gold-fiel
in consideration of improvements made thereon, apply to the
Land Agent for permission to purchase the land without comp
at a price to be fixed by the Land Board. The area, however, is l
to 1 rood of town land and 1 acre of other land, and a distance of
must separate any two or more portions purchased by the same ap

Special Purchases.—Reclaimed lands, unnecessary roads, wate
ages, land to which no way of access is obtainable, land insuffic
area for conditional purchase, and other areas of a similar natu
be sold to the holder of the adjacent property without competiti
in all such cases the price is fixed by the Land Board.

Volunteer Land Orders.—Any person who was enrolled as a vo
between the years 1868 and 1875, and underwent five years' con
training, is entitled to a free grant of 50 acres open for conditio
chase; but this form of alienation is now virtually extinct, o
grants being made in 1893, none during 1894 and 1895, and on
during 1896. The orders are transferable.

Exchanges.—Under the 46th section of the Act of 1889, and
47 Act of 1895, provision is made for the surrender of land in
cases in exchange for land of equal value, and without any m
consideration.

Homestead Selections.—The acquisition of land in this man
feature of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and a distinct departu
old forms. Tracts of land are surveyed and valued, and all par
are notified in the *Government Gazette* and a local newspape
a period of forty days after being gazetted, these areas remai
for additional conditional purchase by holders residing on adjace
ditional purchases. Any person of or over 16 years of age, and
ing the usual legal qualifications, is entitled to apply for a ho
selection. The area that may be selected is fixed according
capabilities of the land; but in no case can it exceed 1,280 ac
the selector is bound to take the block he applies for as it is gaz
he cannot take a portion only. The tenure is freehold, subject
and residence in perpetuity. At the time of application six
rent is required. The survey fee is on the same scale as that f
conditional purchases, one-third being payable on application, o
at the end of twelve months, and one-third at the end of the seco
Until the grant is issued the rental is 3d. in the £ (or 1¼ per cent
capital value of the land); after the issue of the grant the rent i
the £ (or 2½ per cent.) The original valuation stands for fiftee
after which a fresh appraisement is made every ten years. The c
dition required by the Crown by way of improvement is the ere
a dwelling house of the value of £20, and residence must co
within three months from the date on which the application is co
The house must be erected within eighteen mouths, and aft

maintained in good order. The obligation of perpetual residence is a provision made to ensure the land being used for the purpose intended, and as a guard against monopoly; nevertheless, under certain circumstances the condition of residence may be relaxed. The interest of a holder is liable to be forfeited for non-fulfilment of conditions or non-payment of rent. After five years the holding may be transferred, but the condition as to residence attaches to each successive transferree. Tenant right in improvements is given if the selection is surrendered or forfeited. Any improvements which may be on the land when it is selected must be paid for at their appraised value in four equal yearly instalments, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

If a number of homestead selectors desire to form a village adjacent to their holdings, the condition as to residence on the holdings may be dispensed with at the discretion of the Governor, and residence in such village or settlement substituted, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

The homestead selector may avail himself of the privilege of protecting his holding, so that it cannot be sold under a writ of execution or taken from him in the case of insolvency, but to effect this protection the selector must be solvent at the time when he applies for registration. Should a holder be compelled by adverse circumstances to abandon his selection, a certificate to that effect may be obtained, qualifying him to apply for another selection.

In the case of persons desirous of making a home on the land, but who for a time are debarred by their present calling or other circumstances from taking up their residence thereon, provision is made for residence by a deputy, who must be approved, however, by the Local Land Board, and the applicant must satisfy the Board that it is his intention subsequently to reside on the land. The following special conditions are imposed in such cases:—(1) The full amount of survey fee must be paid at the date of application; (2) the rent chargeable before the issue of the grant is 3½ per cent. of the capital value; (3) the value of the dwelling erected must be £40; and (4) within three years one-tenth of the area must be in full tillage, and during the fourth and fifth years this area must be increased to one-fifth.

Conditional purchases and conditional leases may be converted into homestead selections, the rent chargeable being at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the capital value, which, under the Conditional Purchasers Relief Act of 1896, shall for the first ten years be taken at £1 per acre for a conditional purchase not within a special area; at the original price for a conditional purchase within a special area; and for a conditional lease, at a sum obtained by capitalising the annual rent of such lease on a 2½ per cent. basis. Such part of the payments made towards a conditional purchase as may have been applied to the reduction of the principal sum, and not taken to defray interest charges on the outstanding balance, is credited to the holder as rent of the homestead selection from the time of conversion.

The inducement offered to persons of slender means by this
and the advantages which the homestead selector has compare
the holder of a conditional purchase, are very apparent. For in
the amount payable during the first year on a homestead selec
640 acres, valued at £1 per acre, is only £10 13s. 9d., while in tl
of a conditional purchase, the same area would entail an expe
of £74 15s. The improvements which have to be effected under
ditional purchase are not required on a homestead selection, and tl
of the homestead selector, as has been stated, cannot be taken fro
under any legal process. From the eagerness with which the
already offered have been taken up, there is no doubt that this f
acquiring land will be largely availed of.

Conditional Leases.—Crown lands open to ordinary condition
chase in the Eastern and Central Land Divisions are available f
ditional lease in connection with residential conditional purchases,
ing those within special areas in the Eastern and Western Di
The area of any conditional lease cannot exceed three times that
conditional purchase or purchases in right of which it is applied f
cannot be less than 40 acres; nor can the combined area of the p
and lease exceed 1,280 acres in the Eastern Division, or 2,560
the Central Division. The land applied for must also adjoin the
tional purchase by virtue of which it is granted. The lease has
of twenty-eight years, and pending appraisement a provisional
2d. per acre is payable annually. The first appraisement made
Land Board stands for fifteen years, and for the remaining peri
land is subject to a reappraisement.

As conditional purchases other than within special areas cannot
existing legislation, be taken up in the Western Division, no cond
leases are obtainable there. The conditional leases current in this d
were pre-emptive leases converted under the provisions of the La
of 1884.

At any time during its currency a conditional lease or any porti
adjoining the previous series may be converted into an additio
ditional purchase, and as this right is almost invariably availed of t
held under conditional lease may practically be considered as alie

Settlement Leases for Agriculture and Grazing.—These are
homestead selections, are specially set apart by notification
Government Gazette. The land is measured, and each portion is
according to its capabilities and situation. Areas set apart for
tural purposes cannot exceed 1,280 acres, but for grazing purpo
maximum is 10,240 acres. The term of a lease is twenty-eight
and the annual rent is 1¼ per cent. on the capital value. Six
rent, together with the prescribed survey fee, must accompa
application. The appraised value of improvements on the lan
taken up, with interest at 4 per cent. per annum, may be paid i
equal yearly instalments. The conditions are continuous re
during the term of the lease, and the enclosing of the holding

from the issue of the lease; the lessee is also required to
to any regulations made regarding noxious animals and the
of scrub, and such other provisions as may be deemed expedient
blic interest. The lease cannot be assigned or sub-let without
ent of the Minister. During the last year of the term the
y apply for that part of the lease on which his residence stands
estead selection, the area not to exceed 1,280 acres.

llowing is the scale of survey fees for settlement leases. In
where the cost of survey proves to be less than the scale rates,
rence may be refunded:—

	£	s.	d.
560 acres, as for an original conditional purchase (*see* page 253.)			
60 acres	18	15	0
ry additional 40 acres up to 3,840 acres, 2s. 6d.			
40 acres	22	15	0
ry additional 40 acres up to 5,760 acres, 2s.			
60 acres	27	11	0
ry additional 40 acres up to 7,680 acres, 1s. 6d.			
80 acres	31	3	0
ry additional 40 acres up to 10,240 acres, 1s.			
240 acres	34	7	0

ment Leases.—This form of lease, like settlement leases and
ad selections, is an introduction of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.
ls which may be taken up are comprised of scrub and inferior
any division. They are disposed of either by auction or tender,
no case can the area of a lease exceed 20,480 acres. The term
e is twenty-eight years; the rent is the amount bid at auction
ted by tender, but an upset price may be fixed, and the Governor
bound to accept any tender. The provisions made for the im-
nt of the land vary according to the circumstances of each
d the last holder has tenant-right in improvements. Residence
land is not compulsory; but if the lessee resides thereon he may,
the last year of the term, make application to convert the resi-
portion into a homestead selection; but the area cannot exceed
es, and must carry improvements to the value of £1 per acre.

ral Leases.—The largest areas taken up for pastoral purposes
d under this form of lease. Under the Act of 1884 the large
s of the squatters were each divided into two portions, called
tively the resumed area and the leasehold area. The resumed
s leased under occupation license, renewable annually, but the
mained open for selection under conditional purchase and condi-
lease. The leasehold area was returned to the lessee, who was
d to hold it for a fixed term of years, varying in each Land Divi-
In the Eastern Division the pastoral leases expired in 1890, and
nnot now be renewed, nor can fresh areas be leased. In the
l Division pastoral leases terminated in 1895, but in accordance
he privilege granted under the Act of 1889, a great number of the
have been extended for short periods, varying from one to five years.
ion has, however, been made in connection with these renewals for

the withdrawal of such portions as may be required under oth of settlement. After due inquiry by the Land Board, the Mi authorise the division of the area into two parts as nearly e practicable, and the portion from which withdrawals may b subsequently defined. By way of compensation for such wit a further extension of time is given for the remainder of the l

The pastoral leases in the Western Division were, under th 1884, given a currency of fifteen years, which was increased to one years by the Act of 1889, and by the Crown Lands Act the term was further extended to twenty-eight years, calculat the commencement of the lease. The rent of each lease varies appraised value of the land, and lessees have tenant-right in i ments. The resumed area may be amalgamated with the leaseh in cases in which the Local Land Board, after inquiry, is satisf such resumed area is not required and is not likely to be requ settlement before the expiration of the pastoral lease. Withdr portions of the pastoral leases for settlement purposes may in the Western Land Division as in the Central; but the m area which can be withdrawn is limited to one-eighth of the le and the land must not be more than 10 miles distant fr boundary of a town containing at least fifty inhabitants.

Occupation Licenses.—Land held under occupation license mostly of the resumed areas of pastoral holdings divided by the 1884, and the expired leases of the Eastern and Central Di Land withdrawn from pastoral lease for settlement in the Cent Western Divisions may also be held under occupation licen pastoral lessee in the Central Division has a preferential right occupation license of any area formerly held by him under pastor and in both the Central and Western Divisions this privilege ext land withdrawn from the existing lease for settlement purposes license is annual, covering the calendar year, and the fee is pay the time of granting or renewing the license. Under an amendi passed in 1896, land held under occupation license may be wit from the holder on receipt of an application for such land as a stead selection, or under settlement lease, provided the holder occupation license is informed of the application by the Land within one week of its receipt.

Artesian Well Leases.—Holders of occupation licenses or annu may take up artesian well leases. Only one such area may be le of each 64,000 acres held under occupation license, and not mo three areas out of the same occupation license, the total exte artesian well lease being limited to 10,240 acres.

Homestead Leases.—This form of lease is granted for the r areas or the vacant lands of the Western Division only; lands he annual lease or occupation license are, therefore, open to hom lease. The minimum area obtainable is 2,560 acres, and the ma 10,240 acres. If the maximum area is not taken up in t

e, additions may be made until that area is reached, but these
ns may not consist of less than 2,560 acres, except in certain
hen the minimum additional area may be 640 acres. Addi-
eases terminate on the same date as the original lease, and have
ently a shorter term. The term of lease is twenty-eight years,
rent is appraised every seven years. A deposit of 1d. per acre,
10 on account of survey fee, is required on making the application.
sixty days from the date on which the lease is gazetted the
of the cost of survey is due; and the rental is payable annually
ance. Continuous residence for six months in each year for the
e years is required. Residence must commence within ninety
om the approval of the lease; but the lessee may, at his own risk,
nto occupation immediately after making application. The date of
ncing the six months' residence in any year must be previously
d to the Local Land Board. The boundaries of the land must be
d within two years from approval of the lease with such a fence
Board may prescribe; upon satisfactory cause being shown,
er, a suspension of the conditions as to residence and fencing may
ained, and an extension of time granted. The Local Board is
ered to make inquiry as to whether the conditions have been
d to by the lessee, and the lease is liable to forfeiture in the
of their non-fulfilment. Arrangements for the sub-letting of home-
leases are required to be in writing, and a certified copy of the
ent sent to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, any disregard
regulation being taken as evidence that the lease is not held
d faith. After the conditions as to residence are fulfilled the lease
nsferable. The portion of the lease on which the lessee has his
ng may, during the last year of the term, be applied for as a
tead selection.

ual Leases.—Crown lands which are not held under other forms
e, and are not exempt from lease, may be let on annual lease in
Land Division by auction or tender, or upon application, in areas
ceeding 1,920 acres; and lands reserved from sale are not with-
from annual lease. The minimum rental cannot be less than £2
ery 640 acres or lesser area. An original lease dates from the
day of the month following its notification in the *Gazette*, or if
nd has been leased at auction, the first day of the month following
ate of sale; but the first year expires on the 31st December, rent
charged only for the number of months during which the lease-
has been occupied, so that all renewals of leases cover the
lar year. Improved lands let on annual lease are subject to an
onal rent for the use of improvements, and where the improve-
do not belong to the Crown an agreement has to be come to by
arties concerned, failing which an appraisement is made by the
Board. The improvements must be of a fixed and substantial
cter and necessary for the occupation of the land, and before
ion the owner may, with the permission of the Board take away

such as are of a removable nature. Under the Crown Lands stead Selections and Settlement Leases) Act of 1896 (59 Vic. land held under annual lease is withdrawn by application for as a homestead selection or under settlement lease, but the L must notify the holder of the annual lease within one we receipt of the application.

Scrub Leases.—Lands, whether vacant or otherwise, wholly covered with scrub or noxious undergrowth may, upon the re dation of the Local Land Board in any district, be declared scr and after notification in the *Government Gazette*, may be le auction or tender, or upon application, for such periods, not ing twenty-one years, as the Minister may deem expedient. U Crown Lands Act of 1895, however, the leases of scrub and lands may, upon application, be extended by the Governor to eight years, the term allowed for improvement leases. Until t leased in this form, scrub lands cannot be withdrawn from any license under which they may be held; and if the lands form p homestead or a pastoral lease, the scrub lease can only be gr the homestead or the pastoral lessee; but a homestead or a lessee cannot take up a scrub lease outside his own holding, term of his scrub lease expires with that of his homestead or lease. During the whole currency of a scrub lease, the land ca made available for purchase or other form of lease. The con are that the holder shall take such steps for the destruction of t and noxious growth as the Board may direct, and shall afterwa the land free from such growth. These operations must be com within three months from the date of the lease, and in case fulfilment of conditions or non-payment of rent the lease is liabl cancelled and all improvements forfeited to the Crown.

Leases of Inferior Lands.—Vacant lands of an inferior char in isolated positions, and which have not been held under an of tenure or have been abandoned, may be offered for lease by tion in the *Government Gazette*. Within thirty days after this has been given the land may be leased by auction or by tender, to the conditions specified in the *Gazette*, the upset rental being f the Minister on the report of the Local Land Board. A lease such land which has been put up at auction may upon applica obtained at the upset rental. The term of lease is twenty y under; but the Governor has power, under the Crown Lands 1895, to extend the time to twenty-eight years.

Snow-land Leases.—Vacant lands, or lands held under annu or occupation license, which are usually covered with snow d part of each year and are unfit for continuous use or occupatio on the recommendation of the Land Board, be submitted Minister for lease by auction. The minimum area which can leased is 1,280 acres, and the maximum area, 10,240 acres. T year's rent, together with the survey fee, is due at the time riod of lease is seven years; but on application not later than months before the expiration of that time, an extension of three may be granted, subject to re-appraisement of rental, notice ch is given twelve months prior to the expiration of the lease. rson can hold more than two areas under snow-land lease.

idential leases on Gold and Mineral Fields.—Any holder of a s right or mineral license is entitled to apply for a residential leas ant lands not exceeding 20 acres in extent, within any proclaimed r mineral field. Applications must be accompanied by a deposit the prescribed survey fee, and a provisional rent at the rate of r acre or part of an acre. The lease may be granted for any term ceeding fifteen years, and is held subject to the following ions :—The lessee must, during the whole currency of the lease, miner's right or mineral license. He must make the leasehold ual and only home, and residence must commence within three s from the date of notification of the lease. Within twelve s he must, if such improvements are not already existing, erect uildings and fences as are required for the actual residence upon e beneficial use of the land. Any portion of the land which in the n of the Minister is required for mining or public purposes, may thdrawn from the lease. Any duly authorised person may enter land for the purpose of seeking work or winning gold or mineral, and the residential lease confers on the holder no right this himself—he must procure the necessary authority before he s so. Other conditions which may be imposed are specified in tification. On the expiration or withdrawal of the lease the has tenant-right in improvements.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

following statement shows the cost of the administration of the Department during the period from 1886 to the 30th June, 1897 :—

Year.	Cost of Survey of Lands.	Expenditure for General, Miscellaneous, and Special Services.	Total Cost of Administration.
	£	£	£
1886	378,085	172,167	550,252
1887	299,370	180,011	479,381
1888	248,661	205,747	454,408
1889	223,059	243,378	466,437
1890	224,096	174,284	398,380
1891	232,672	170,495	403,167
1892	209,735	200,859	410,594
1893	180,325	181,135	361,460
1894	155,184	163,145	318,329
*1895	73,770	86,659	160,429
1895-6	155,595	163,108	318,703
1896-7	69,250	230,096	299,346

* To 30th June.

The figures just given might prove misleading without some refe to the actual revenue received. In the chapter on "Public Fin will be found a statement of the revenue from the Crown lands of colony, and if from the figures there given be subtracted the rec from mining occupation and the balance compared with the cost in the table just given, the following results will be obtained :—

Year.	Percentage of Total Revenue Expended—		
	On Survey.	On General Expenses.	Total.
1886	24·48	11·15	35·63
1887	12·89	7·77	20·66
1888	11·24	9·30	20·54
1889	10·87	11·86	22·73
1890	10·36	8·06	18·42
1891	10·99	8·05	19·04
1892	10·19	9·76	19·95
1893	8·52	8·56	17·08
1894	7·46	7·84	15·30
*1895	7·09	8·33	15·42
1895–6	7·86	8·24	16·10
1896–7	3·64	12·12	15·76

* To 30th June.

The figures just given show a notable improvement. It must, ever, be borne in mind that the expenditure on surveying is add some instances to the cost of the land, and is therefore not altoget fair charge against administration.

PROGRESS OF ALIENATION.

The growth of land alienation under the legislation of 1861 an subsequent amendments, and the operations of the settlers unde Acts of 1884, 1889, and 1895 in the matter of unconditional settle are summarised below:—

Mode of Alienation.	Lots.	Area.
Sales by auction—	No.	acres.
Town	35,002	16,675
Suburban	13,770	67,364
Country	62,134	9,222,558
Total sales by auction	110,906	9,306,597
Selection after auction	16,628	1,719,581
Sales by virtue of improvements	24,340	2,786,611
,, by virtue of pre-emptive rights	2,114	560,825
,, of unnecessary roads	991	7,923
,, of water reservations	208	649
by special appraisements	270	2,284
of reclaimed lands	591	942
Grand total of unconditional sales	156,048	14,385,412

rds conditional sales, the following were applied for under the cts since the date of the Crown Lands Act of 1861 :—

			Selections applied for.	
			No.	Acres.
Crown Lands Act of 1861—				
24, 1880			136,389 ...	14,982,120
Crown Lands Act of 1880—	No.	Acres.		
rom May 25)	4,927 ...	694,951		
	14,220 ...	2,329,202		
	14,606 ...	2,392,218		
	10,674 ...	1,617,712		
	10,657 ...	1,453,937		
Total			55,084 ...	8,488,020
o December 31, 1884			191,473 ...	23,470,140
Crown Lands Acts of 1884, 1889, and 1895,—	No.	Acres.		
	5,377 ...	1,165,352		
	6,080 ...	963,197		
	4,769 ...	793,004		
	5,364 ...	865,199		
	6,205 ...	903,160		
	8,526 ...	1,713,577		
	6,154 ...	1,303,414		
	4,396 ...	816,399		
	3,393 ...	533,805		
	2,617 ...	414,355		
	1,751 ...	253,431		
	1,279 ...	199,450		
Total			55,911 ...	9,924,343
total to December 31, 1896			247,384 ...	33,394,483

umber of selections cancelled, forfeited, lapsed, declared void, erted into homestead selections, together with the balance of ances, etc., and that of increased over decreased areas, amounted conditional purchases, covering 10,408,606 acres, thus reducing 3 lots and 22,985,877 acres the number and area of selections nained in existence at the close of the year 1896. Deeds have d upon 23,260 completed purchases, covering 2,773,065 acres, he number of purchases still standing good, but upon which tions have not been fulfilled, is 147,683, covering an area of 2 acres.

the Crown Lands Act of 1895, applications for 1,389 blocks ived to the end of 1896 for homestead selections, the aggregate ied for being 425,450 acres. Of the applications lodged 275, 108,403 acres, were disallowed, while 1,100, amounting to acres, were confirmed. Applications in respect of 250 blocks iting consideration at the close of 1896. In addition to the , there were 44 conversions of conditional purchases, of a total 547 acres.

In addition to the alienation of land by conditional and uncon sales, the following were granted under the Volunteer Land Reg of 1867 :—

Year.	Area of Volunteer Land Orders granted.	Year.	Area of Volunteer Land Orders granted.
	acres.		acres.
1871	6,049	1885	1,926
1872	7,317	1886	740
1873	2,880	1887	1,797
1874	7,756	1888	1,433
1875	14,498	1889	783
1876	18,758	1890	892
1877	14,079	1891	1,100
1878	13,022	1892	590
1879	26,506	1893	500
1880	18,886	1894	Nil.
1881	13,876	1895	Nil.
1882	5,649	1896	50
1883	4,358		
1884	4,500	Total	167,945

The following table shows the area of land granted for gene religious purposes from 1862 to 1896 :—

Year.	Area of Grants.	Year.	Area of Grants.	Year.	Area of
	acres.		acres.		ac
1862	857	1874	6,626	1886	11,
1863	808	1875	673	1887	5,
1864	301	1876	5,557	1888	3,
1865	2,855	1877	2,899	1889	1,
1866	12,288	1878	1,811	1890	1,
1867	13,935	1879	21,762	1891	
1868	11,310	1880	20,637	1892	8,
1869	3,672	1881	7,113	1893	5,
1870	11,970	1882	1,969	1894	41,
1871	4,319	1883	2,535	1895	7,
1872	1,969	1884	6,626	1896	3
1873	2,535	1885	481	Total	29

operations of the various Orders, Regulations, and Acts of Council Parliament for the disposal of the public lands, since the tion of the colony, have given the following results :—

	Acres.
nted and sold by private tender and public auction at prices ging from 5s. to 20s. per acre, prior to the year 1862............	7,146,579
conditionally sold, 1862-1896 inclusive..............................	14,388,649
ditionally sold, for which deeds have issued, 1862-96 inclusive	2,773,065
granted under Volunteer Land Regulations of 1867 to 31st cember, 1896..	167,945
anted for public purposes, 1862-96.....................................	236,701
Total area covered by deeds or dedication............	24,712,939
n process of alienation under system of deferred payments nding good on 31st December, 1896..................................	20,212,812
process of alienation under system of homestead selection ...	324,843
conditional purchases converted into homestead selections...	6,874
Total alienated or in process of alienation	45,257,468

has been found impracticable to separate the area alienated by from that sold by private tender, as the records of early years complete upon this point.

following statement shows the amount paid for lands purchased he State from the year 1821 to the end of 1896 :—

Period.	Amount received.
	£
1821-1861	3,785,002
1862-1871	2,359,548
1872-1881	17,015,358
1882-1891	13,917,457
1892-1897*............	6,968,828
Total received...	44,046,193
Less refunds	1,412,686
Net amount received ...£	42,633,507

* To 30th June.

includes £20,449,833 paid on account of conditional purchases. mount outstanding on conditional purchases at the end of 1896 12,381,760, making the total amount paid and owing on all lands 55,015,267.

area leased to pastoral tenants and others at the end of 1896 ised 126,307,790 acres (including leases to miners under the Mining nd was subdivided as follows :—

	Acres.
Pastoral Leases	52,706,670
Occupation Licenses	40,210,241
Conditional Leases..............................	13,260,052
Homestead Leases..............................	10,429,261
Annual Leases	5,873,263
Other Leases	3,731,272
Leases under the Mining Act	97,031
Total..................................	126,307,790

The total available area of the colony is 195,882,150 acr
deducting the area sold and otherwise alienated, 45,257,468 ac
the area leased 126,307,790 acres, making a total of 171,565,2
there remained a balance of 24,316,892 acres, representing the
country neither alienated nor leased, including roads, unoccupied
and land unsuitable for settlement.

Area Available for Settlement.

In 1895 attention was again directed to the question of land legi
as it was rightly contended that the Lands Acts of 1884 and 18
failed to prevent the accumulation of enormous landed estates i
hands of a very limited number of proprietors, backed up by th
financial institutions of the country. Although it may be s
defence of the policy pursued by this class of landowners, th
many cases it was forced upon them by the defective nat
legislation, which failed to discriminate between the very dif
interests of the pastoralists and the agricultural settlers, it must
theless have been patent to everybody that the rate at which
immense alienations of the public estate were being carri
threatened in a very short period of time to place formidable ob
in the path of healthy settlement. The Acts mentioned have now,
ever, been superseded by the Crown Lands Act of 1895, which ca
operation on the 1st June of that year. As has already been shown,
radical changes in land legislation have been effected by this Act
it must be borne in mind that immediate remedial action ca
be taken in connection with that portion of the Crown lands
has not yet been alienated, or leased to Crown tenants for a d
period of years. Leases granted under certain conditions, su
those attached to conditional leases, which carry with them the
of purchase at any time during their currency, may be considered
in effect a form of alienation, as but a comparatively small port
these areas is ever likely to return to the public estate. Lands
homestead lease in the Western Division, scrub lands, snow-c
areas, and inferior lands leased for long periods of fixed tenure, a
as pastoral leases renewable for long terms, form another categ
lands upon which past legislation lays a prescriptive claim. Th
which can be beneficially affected by the Act of 1895 is, the
limited to the area which is unalienated, or for which contract
not been entered into, further reduced by the excision of reserv
public purposes, for goldfields and other forms of mining enterpri
for railways and other purposes. At the close of 1896 there
24,712,939 acres absolutely alienated, for which deeds had i
20,212,812 acres conditionally sold, the conditions of purchase no
complete; 324,843 acres alienated and in process of alienation un
system of homestead selection, subject to the payment of rent in perp
6,874 acres of conditional purchases converted into homestead sel
and 13,260,052 acres leased with the right to purchase; in all, 58,5

hich have been placed entirely beyond the scope of present or legislation.

areas under long contracts of lease, in some cases with right of l, which no legislation can affect until the expiration of the fixed of their tenure, are given below :—

	Acres.
mestead Leases in Western Division for 28 years	10,429,261
nb Leases for 21 years, with right of renewal for a further period of 7 years	215,455
w Leases for 7 years, with right of renewal for a further period of 3 years	112,670
ases of inferior lands, etc., for 20 years, with right of renewal for a further period of 8 years..........................	364,336
storal Leases in Western Division for 28 years	38,645,789
her Leases	2,880,386
Total..............................	52,647,897

entire area affected by contracts existing at the end of 1896 nted therefore to 111,165,417 acres, and these figures show how ly the extent of territory to which remedial legislation is applicable minished. Of the balance, amounting to 84,716,733 acres, a large n comprises reserves of various kinds; and if allowance be made ountainous and other sterile lands, it will probably be found that rea suitable for occupation which the State has to offer intending rs is somewhere about 62,000,000 acres. A further reduction t be made in order to arrive at the area available for immediate pation, as in the Central Division a very large area has been renewed various short periods in accordance with the privilege granted under Crown Lands Act of 1884. In the course of the year 1896 an area ring 692,844 acres became available for settlement, and during the t eight years leases for the following areas will also expire as noted:—

Year.	Acres.	Year.	Acres.
1897	1,226,315	1902	135,782
1898	1,338,559	1903	17,111
1899	998,002	1904	54,345
1900	10,034,304		
1901	46,053	Total.........	13,850,471

cluding the area which fell in during 1897 (1,226,315 acres), and ing allowance for the fact that under the Act of 1895 half of these holds may be withdrawn to meet the requirements of settlement as arise, the total extent of country open to the immediate influence of lation is limited, therefore, to but little more than 54,000,000 acres. n a careful computation the area estimated to be immediately lable would appear to be distributed in the following proportions in the three great divisions of New South Wales :—

	Acres.
Eastern Division	13,000,000
Central ,, ...	21,000,000
Western ,, ...	20,000,000

nder present conditions the Western Division is not suitable for cultural settlement, and the area, therefore, left open to the

operations of the small settler combining agriculture with
pursuits does not exceed 34,000,000 acres, or about one-sixt
territory of New South Wales.

The progress of alienation and conditional settlement by
lease at various periods from 1861 to 1884, and annually
mentioned year, is shown in the following table :—

At end of year.	Area Alienated for which deeds have issued.	Area Conditionally Purchased, standing good on 31st December.	Area Conditionally Leased on 31st December.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	
1861	7,146,579	....	....	....
1871	8,630,604	2,280,000	....	....
1881	22,406,746	12,875,392	....	....
1884	22,779,733	16,158,588	....	....
1885	22,872,366	16,554,900	1,900,800	....
1886	22,991,206	16,945,579	3,955,200	....
1887	23,106,700	17,262,567	4,802,560	....
1888	23,259,048	17,499,655	6,121,600	....
1889	23,442,013	17,920,002	6,928,804	....
1890	23,615,720	19,048,085	9,903,949	....
1891	23,775,410	19,805,892	11,234,131	....
1892	23,937,392	20,115,467	14,370,803	....
1893	24,138,576	20,214,361	12,707,423	....
1894	24,358,717	20,316,605	12,870,191	....
1895	24,566,945	20,266,061	12,953,203	[illegible]
1896	24,712,939	20,212,812	13,260,052	[illegible]

As already pointed out, the land held under conditional
virtually alienated, seeing that the holder has the right of co
his lease into a freehold at any time during its currency.

EFFECTS OF LAND LEGISLATION.

The lands specially referred to in the following examination a
included in rural holdings over 1 acre in extent, from which the
tural and pastoral production of the country is obtained, m
areas being dealt with separately as regards extent and rev
another part of this volume. In the preceding pages an acco
been given of the old methods of land alienation, and of the
Acts of Parliament which now regulate the division of the publi
among the settlers : the object of the examination which follo
show what have been the effects of past and present legislation u
settlement of the territory.

When the agitation which culminated in the framing of the
Lands Act of 1861 was in progress, it was contended that the
in-Council then in force favoured the occupation of the countr
by the wealthier classes, and the principles of free selection
survey and of deferred payments were introduced in the new
tion with the object of facilitating the settlement of an agri
population side by side with the great pastoral tenants of the
The statistical records for the year 1861 show that at the close

, and just before the new legislation had come into force, there already 21,175 holders of rural lands, of whom 17,654 were located he old settled districts, comprising twenty counties, grouped around e principal centres—the metropolis and the county of Cumberland, Hunter River Valley, and that portion of the central tableland of h Goulburn, Bathurst, and Mudgee were the first towns; while the ining 3,521 settlers were scattered over the pastoral districts. The res showing the area held by these settlers do not discriminate ween the land alienated and that occupied under lease from the wn; but they show that in the old settled districts there were e 254,347 acres under cultivation—or an average of 14 acres per lding—and 8,522,420 acres used for stock; whilst in the pastoral ricts 43,228 acres were cultivated, and 54,716,463 acres were pied for grazing; so that at that time 63,536,458 acres, representing about one-third of the territory of the colony, were already in occupation of the settlers.

In addition to the clauses inserted in the Act of 1861 in the interests onists of small means, certain provisions were retained which red the interests accrued to the pastoralists under former legislation, which they availed themselves to the utmost. By means of auction of country lands at the upset price of 20s. per acre, of unconal selections of lots not bid for at auction, of purchases made in e of improvements, and of the right of pre-emption to certain lands r the old Acts of Council, the accumulation of immense estates greatly facilitated. The sales of lands subject to conditions of ence and improvements, though ostensibly made to foster the lement of a numerous class of small farmers, were also availed of in interests of station owners, to whom the purchases were transferred great numbers immediately upon completion of the conditions of dence and improvements required under the Act. The evils resulting m the antagonistic interests of these two classes of settlers were rtly checked by the amended law of 1884, which put a stop to the olesale alienation of land by auction, unconditional selection after tion, and sales in virtue of pre-emptive rights. The clause relating improvement purchases was also modified, and made applicable only to all areas in gold-fields which might be purchased by resident miners in tue of certain improvements; and the area offered at auction sales restricted to a maximum of 200,000 acres yearly; but conditional tlement was favoured by permitting the maximum area allowed to be en up by free selectors to be considerably increased, the conditions of dence being increased to five years instead of three, and the fulfilment he conditions of fencing and improvements rendered more stringent. These regulations, however, did not, in any sense, fulfil the expectation the legislators in regard to settling a yeomanry upon the soil, as the res relating to transfers of conditional purchases published further on show that, when other means of increasing the area of individual tes failed, the traffic in transfers of conditionally-purchased lands, with increased areas, supplied the deficiency. What effect the radical cha introduced by the Land Act of 1895 will have remains to be seen, but t is little doubt that great improvement will result from the new sy

The principal element which contributed to the aggregation of landed estates was that of auction sales of country lands, which measured in vast areas upon the application of the run-holders, bought them up generally at the upset price—at first a minimum of per acre, raised in 1878 to £1 5s. per acre.

The following analysis of the different methods by which lands been alienated will account for the present state of rural settle Particulars of the auction sales of country lands from the year 18 1896 inclusive are given hereunder:—

Year.	Lots.	Total Area.	Amount realised.	Average Pr per Acre.		
	No.	acres.	£	£	s.	d.
1862	532	29,729	33,208	1	2	4
1863	765	15,392	18,163	1	3	7
1864	542	31,393	35,549	1	2	[illegible]
1865	1,289	63,303	71,532	1	2	7
1866	801	65,799	68,197	1	0	[illegible]
1867	806	70,701	75,432	1	1	4
1868	729	50,636	52,169	1	0	7
1869	1,236	93,428	96,364	1	0	[illegible]
1870	797	51,722	54,010	1	0	[illegible]
1871	1,034	49,303	50,270	1	0	[illegible]
1872	697	61,073	61,505	1	0	[illegible]
1873	2,274	274,581	278,110	1	0	[illegible]
1874	4,064	580,753	596,785	1	0	[illegible]
1875	6,658	978,377	992,786	1	0	[illegible]
1876	8,040	1,685,650	1,707,323	1	0	[illegible]
1877	8,380	1,829,613	1,838,457	1	0	[illegible]
1878	4,564	861,049	1,071,486	1	4	[illegible]
1879	2,012	353,372	447,557	1	5	[illegible]
1880	2,082	346,679	419,523	1	4	[illegible]
1881	2,691	523,657	616,309	1	3	[illegible]
1882	2,474	503,547	630,494	1	5	[illegible]
1883	226	25,826	41,268	1	11	[illegible]
1884	397	38,215	72,412	1	17	11
1885	51	1,654	5,513	3	5	[illegible]
1886	793	58,088	100,627	1	14	[illegible]
1887	1,124	103,748	158,747	1	10	[illegible]
1888	1,781	100,128	230,294	2	6	[illegible]
1889	482	18,430	42,389	2	6	[illegible]
1890	686	66,160	113,795	1	14	[illegible]
1891	703	44,348	89,139	2	1	[illegible]
1892	896	80,062	148,115	1	17	[illegible]
1893	1,019	91,964	175,115	1	18	1
1894	699	42,973	86,125	2	0	1
1895	485	19,990	57,008	2	2	[illegible]
1896	325	11,214	25,751	2	5	11
Total	62,134	9,222,557	10,561,527	1	2	[illegible]

gures show that the struggle between selector and squatter gin in earnest until about the year 1873, when the effects of tion of 1861 were felt in an acute form; but during the ten t followed, this process of defence was applied in a wholesale y the pastoral tenants to save their possessions from encroachugh the operations of the selectors. The system was modified gislation of 1884, the object of auction sales of country lands g to obtain revenue by the sale of select parcels of land at a erage price and in much smaller average areas. Since the year d, this system of alienation has ceased to be of use in con- large pastoral estates.

g other means offered for the unconditional purchase of Crown t of selection at the upset price of lots not bid for at auction peared with the passing of the Act of 1884. The following ws the results of this system of purchase during the period 1883, when it was in operation:—

Lots.	Total Area selected.	Year.	Lots.	Total Area selected.
No.	acres.		No.	acres.
477	22,347	1874	1,112	98,850
362	17,384	1875	1,343	101,718
248	12,388	1876	1,126	95,681
251	12,582	1877	1,364	158,844
332	16,413	1878	893	122,812
270	15,803	1879	....	....
283	18,589	1880	182	39,408
545	39,085	1881	1,605	328,203
367	23,375	1882	2,240	353,093
340	23,700	1883	209	31,381
929	83,733	Total......	15,750	1,716,976
1,272	101,587			

a comparison of the above figures with those shown in the g table, it will be seen that during the years 1881 and 1882 this nconditional purchase was largely availed of to supplement the rchases at auction.

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of a pre-emptive right, a form o by the Crown Lands Act the areas bought in the interest

	Total Area sold.	Year.	Lots.	Total
	acres.		No.	a
[illegible]	30,619	1874	....	...
[illegible]	58,032	1875	....	...
[illegible]	13,128	1876	780	18
[illegible]	23,459	1877	367	8
[illegible]	25,616	1878	15	
[illegible]	30,039	1879	25	
[illegible]	32,260	1880	30	
[illegible]	7,617	1881	35	
[illegible]	3,718	1882	29	
[illegible]	8,623	1883	23	
[illegible]	3,379			
[illegible]	1,488	Total......	2,114	58

of the figures in the tables just given sh from 1873 to 1882 the area alienated pr consolidating pastoral properties, and of operations of conditional purchasers, amo made up as follows :—

[illegible]	Unconditionally sold by Selection.	Improved Lots sold to Owners of Improvements.	Sold by Pre-emption.	
[illegible]	acres.	acres.	acres.	
[illegible]	101,587	10,587	1,488	
[illegible]	98,850	20,546	....	
[illegible]	101,718	49,852	....	1,
[illegible]	95,681	86,099	189,664	2,
[illegible]	158,844	159,848	81,193	2,
[illegible]	122,812	224,841	4,063	1,
[illegible]	....	121,062	6,033	
[illegible]	39,408	237,646	6,912	
[illegible]	328,203	474,099	7,461	1,
[illegible]	353,093	165,031	5,183	1,
[illegible]	1,400,196	1,549,611	301,997	11

consolidation of pastoral estates did not suffer a serio clauses of the Act of 1861, above cited, ceased to op of conditional purchases supplied fresh means by the of a very large number of selections, principally in the Divisions.

parison of the areas dealt with in the following table shows how original conditional purchasers of Crown lands are dispossessing es of their holdings, whilst the area selected does not exhibit a to increase at anything like the same rate. An examination of reveals the fact that since 1882 only, there have been 30,162,607 conditional purchases transferred, as against 15,101,918 acres for—a difference of 15,060,689 acres, which have to a very large one to increase the large estates, distinctly to the detriment of settlement.

ar.	Selections.		Transfers.	
	Number.	Acreage.	Number.	Acreage.
1882	14,607	2,392,220	8,665	2,134,319
1883	10,725	1,621,948	6,213	1,508,583
1884	10,657	1,453,937	6,017	1,525,456
1885	5,372	1,114,871	9,079	2,286,730
1886	6,061	954,560	7,154	1,861,877
1887	4,478	723,151	7,440	2,159,429
1888	5,364	862,716	10,469	3,096,051
1889	4,686	740,964	10,741	2,327,562
1890	8,526	1,713,577	13,492	1,863,508
1891	6,149	1,306,534	16,727	2,333,808
1892	4,396	816,399	14,017	2,060,130
1893	3,393	533,805	12,581	1,825,097
1894	2,617	414,355	11,235	1,617,263
1895	1,751	253,431	11,517	1,785,011
1896	1,279	199,450	11,264	1,777,783
tal............	90,061	15,101,918	156,611	30,162,607

ust be remembered, however, that a proportion of these transfers de by way of mortgage, and therefore it is not possible to ascertain absolutely transferred by the original selectors. But if to the rted with by its owners since 1882 be added the extent of land rred during the previous twenty years, the fact that 20,591,950 nt of the total area alienated are now contained in 672 holdings, o each one an average domain of 30,642 acres, is easily accounted he number of holdings, however, does not represent the number ers interested, as in not a few cases these large estates are held nership by three or four persons, or by companies and financial tions.

RURAL SETTLEMENT.

EXCLUDING land held by the tenants of the Crown, there New South Wales, at the end of March, 1897, 63,143 hol 1 acre and upwards in extent. Twenty-one years previously such numbered 36,984. The increase in number amounted during th to 71 per cent., while the area comprised in the holdings advan 13,525,497 to 43,467,212 acres, or 221 per cent. The average alienated holdings gradually rose from 366 acres in 1876 to 770 1883; between 1884 and 1892 this average increased very little, 1893 the figures took a downward movement, falling to 688 1897—the lowest average since 1881. This decline in the aver is due to the increase in the number of small holdings, the in this respect during the last four years being slightly greater th made during the previous eight years. The following table g average for each year since 1876:—

Year ended 31 March.	Average size of Holding.	Year ended 31 March.	Average size of Holding.
	acres.		acres.
1876	366	1887	780
1877	459	1888	778
1878	482	1889	795
1879	567	1890	787
1880	569	1891	780
1881	691	1892	784
1882	753	1893	750
1883	770	1894	748
1884	770	1895	707
1885	762	1896	699
1886	778	1897	688

The increase shown between the first and last years of th series is 322 acres, so that the average extent of holdings i twice as large as in 1876. This is attributable mainly to the la transferred to the larger estates by private purchase, and, du

ortion of the period, to the acquisitions by auction sale and
ment purchase, the influence of which has not been so marked
84.
aring the existing rural holdings of various sizes with those
ear 1880, it will be found that estates under 16 acres in extent
reased 183 per cent., while those from 16 to 200 acres in extent
vanced only 30 per cent. Between 201 and 400 acres in area
ber of holdings shows an increase of 38 per cent.; those from
1,000 acres in area increased 51 per cent.; from 1,001 to 2,000
11 per cent.; from 2,001 to 10,000 acres, 124 per cent.; while
rgest class of holdings, those from 10,001 acres upwards, the
in number has been 106 per cent. during the seventeen years.
joined table shows the number of holdings in different classes at
terms of the period named :—

Area.	Year ended 31st March.				
	1880.	1885.	1890.	1895.	1897.
acres	4,974	5,409	7,290	12,301	14,082
acres	21,302	20,998	22,048	25,707	27,627
) acres	6,199	6,363	6,774	8,299	8,579
00 acres.........	4,964	6,497	6,849	7,569	7,517
,000 acres	1,212	1,886	2,191	2,475	2,557
0,000 acres ...	940	1,413	3,910	2,013	2,109
d upwards......	327	513	658	656	672
tal	39,918	43,079	49,720	59,020	63,143

oldings under 16 acres in extent are, generally speaking, in the
of towns, and consist mainly of gardens or orchards, and the
of 183 per cent. is what would naturally be expected from
wing demand for their produce by a large urban population.
t satisfactory feature in the table is the fact that the number
ngs of moderate size does not greatly increase. In 1880 the
having an area from 16 to 400 acres numbered 27,501, while
they numbered 36,206, showing an advance of only 32 per
On the other hand, the larger holdings have increased in a
ble degree: in April, 1897, there were 12,855 holdings of 401
d upwards in extent, compared with 7,443 in 1880, or an increase

of 73 per cent. in number during that short period. The area ings, as returned by occupiers, in every fifth year since 188 1897, is given below :—

Year ended 31st March.	Total Area of Holdings.
	acres.
1880	22,721,603
1885	32,843,317
1890	37,497,889
1895	41,736,073
1897	43,467,212

The area of unenclosed land in 1877 amounted to more than of the whole extent of the holdings; but in the beginning of 1 proportion had fallen to one-twenty-sixth, the area unenclosed period being only 1,663,229 acres out of a total of 43,467,21 occupied. This result is due partly to the operation of leg and partly to the saving of labour which fencing enables occu effect.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

For the purpose of an examination of the statistics show present state of the settlement of alienated land in New Wales, it will be better to extend the inquiry successively various parts of the colony, as far as possible, in the order i they were opened up, following the march of colonization, in the four zones of settlement into which the country may be sa geographically divided, viz., the coast, the tableland, the weste of the Great Dividing Range, and the western plains. Eac having its own special character, offers to the settler different resources according to its climatic conditions. Proceeding fr metropolis as a centre, settlement extended first along th then to the central and more readily accessible parts of the ta following afterwards the course of the great inland rivers tow southern and western parts of the colony; thence to the great the west, spreading slowly across the River Darling to the co the territory. Nature assisted by legislation contributed to the of settlement into its present form—the natural course of even ever, being at times interrupted by sudden rushes of popul points scattered over the surface of the country, even to its extremities.

That part of the county of Cumberland which embraces of the metropolis and its suburbs is outside the limits of this e tion, as it is not intended to inquire into the present condition nt; but it may be stated, nevertheless, that as regards the ion and the distribution of landed property in the city and of Sydney there is now little difference between this and der communities. The figures given below refer only to rural nt in the remaining portion of this county, where the first to colonize were made. It will be seen from the table, in hese holdings are distributed into series of various areas, that e six distinct classes of holders of alienated land, viz.:— ons who occupy their own freeholds; (2) persons occupying which they rent from the freeholders; (3) owners of land who m other private owners lands which they work in addition own freeholds; (4) persons who, in addition to their free- nt from the Crown areas which are generally devoted to the ing of stock; (5) persons who rent land belonging to private as well as land which belongs to the State; and (6) persons addition to working their freehold, are both Crown and private :—

Districts the Cumberland.	Occupiers of—							Area alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
an	1,644	1,140	62	..	..	....	2,846	29,842	13,820	43,662
	791	165	55	..	..	....	1,011	22,346	3,542	25,888
a	923	193	52	..	..	....	1,168	37,042	16,304	53,346
	723	290	50	..	..	....	1,063	36,940	37,291	74,231
art of)	66	40	20	..	..	....	126	17,123	16,774	33,897
own	232	115	39	1	1	1	389	29,897	20,604	50,501
g (part of)	54	25	7	..	..	....	86	9,169	2,050	11,219
art of)	537	196	55	..	..	....	788	45,263	16,152	61,415
art of)	713	241	84	..	..	....	1,038	56,177	62,345	118,522
al	5,683	2,405	424	1	1	1	8,515	283,799	188,882	472,681

, in this part of New South Wales, outside towns and purely n areas, 472,681 acres are alienated in holdings over 1 acre in Of this area, 283,799 acres, or 60·04 per cent., are in the cy of the owners of the land; whilst 188,882 acres, or 39·96 t., are leased to tenant occupiers. There are 5,683 persons ng their own freeholds, 2,405 tenants of private land, 424 [illegible] who both own and rent from private persons portions o [illegible] the owner of freehold with Crown lands attached ; one [illegible] in the position of renting a portion of his holdin [illegible] persons and a portion from the Crown ; and one who, in a [illegible] his own freehold, is a Crown and private tenant. The [illegible] land enclosed in this district is 410,092 acres; and une [illegible] acres. The area in cultivation is 46,605 acres. Persons [illegible] own land cultivate 33,162 acres; and occupiers of private [illegible] 13,443 acres.

From the number of rural landholders in the district it is [illegible] that the average area held by each cannot be very large. [illegible] Police District of Camden it reaches 269 acres; in Campbelltow District, 130 acres; in Wollongong, 130; and in Penrith, 11 In Windsor and in Liverpool the average is 78 and 70 respe in Parramatta, 50; while for Ryde it is only 26, and for the [illegible] politan Police District only 15. The average area for the whole [illegible] only 56 acres per holding.

The holdings in this division may be classified as follows :—

[illegible] Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Culti	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Pr to H
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	pe
[illegible] acres	6,318	51,261	10·84	16,807	
[illegible] 100 acres	2,001	191,319	40·48	24,881	
[illegible] 1,000 acres	124	78,930	16·70	2,682	
[illegible] and upwards	72	151,171	31·98	2,235	
Total	8,515	472,681	100·00	46,605	

There are 26 lessees of Crown lands occupying an area of 2,98 [illegible] acres being held under conditional lease and 1,242 acre [illegible] forms of tenure. The area enclosed is 1,144 acres, and une [illegible] and there are under cultivation 28 acres, principally [illegible] The value of improvements on Crown lands in this di [illegible] £[illegible]00. The total area of alienated land and Crow [illegible] 475,665 acres. Deducting the area cultivated—46,63 [illegible] be seen that the area used for grazing and dairying an [illegible] 429,032 acres.

[illegible] area of the district is 1,006,720 acres. The figures re [illegible] given above do not include holdings under 1 acre, [illegible] includes the metropolitan district, an addition of

han 200,000 **acres** must be made to the alienated area on this
t, **thus bringing** the area up to 675,000 acres, so that the actual
f **Crown lands** unoccupied is not more than 330,000 acres,
g **much that** is of no practical use.

HUNTER AND HAWKESBURY VALLEYS.

n the county of Cumberland colonization advanced westward, and
lvial lands of the Hawkesbury and Nepean valleys were rapidly
ed and covered with prosperous farms. The progress of settle-
was then deflected to the northward by the high range of abrupt
ins in the west which was so long a barrier to the advance of the
in that direction. The lower portion of the valley of the river
r, abounding with natural resources, mineral as well as agricultural,
tracted colonists, and at the present time more population is con-
ed in this district than in any other part of New South Wales
the metropolitan area. The following table indicates the
state of rural settlement in the district comprising the Hunter
wkesbury Valleys :—

	Occupiers of—							Area alienated.		
ion.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown lands attached	Private Rented with Crown lands attached	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown lands.	Total	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
....	722	692	121	183	5	25	1,748	651,704	173,987	825,691
....	133	61	24	35	3	5	261	112,366	17,455	129,821
berland	1,584	1,155	263	36	3	7	3,047	364,557	183,539	548,096
....	867	195	127	54	5	13	1,261	135,401	53,237	188,638
l	3,306	2,103	534	308	16	50	6,317	1,264,028	428,218	1,692,246

division contains a total area of 5,310,080 acres, of which
246 acres, or 31·87 per cent., are alienated among 6,317 land-
s, so that the average area of holdings in this part of the
is 268 acres. Of the area thus alienated, 1,264,028 acres, or
per cent., are in the occupancy of the owners of the land; and
18 acres, or 25·30 per cent., are occupied by private tenants. In the
g counties of Durham and Northumberland the proportion of land
y freeholders is considerable, amounting respectively to 78·93 and
per cent. of the total area alienated in the county, and together
per cent. of the total area alienated in the whole division. It
seen on reference to the table that the proportion of land held

by tenant occupiers is small compared with the total alienated ar 25·30 per cent. being leasehold, of which 10·28 and 10·84 per c in Durham and Northumberland respectively, while the rented p of Hunter and Cook together only amount to 4·18 per cent.

The total number of occupiers is returned at 6,317 for the district. Of these, 3,306 occupy their own freeholds; 2,103 are p tenants; 534 rent various private areas in addition to their own 308 occupy, together with their freeholds, a certain area of lands on lease; 16 occupy holdings a portion of which cons private rented land and the other portion of Crown land; and 50 in the position of being the possessors of freehold with both p rented land and Crown lands. As before stated, the average a holdings in this district is 268 acres, with a minimum of 150 ac the county of Cook, and a maximum of 497 acres in that of H Durham comes next with 472 acres per holding; and the area is lower in Northumberland, which has an average of 180 acres per h The area of alienated land enclosed is 1,538,678 acres; and unen 153,568 acres. There are 67,897 acres in cultivation—37,271 ac land occupied by the owners, and 30,626 acres of private rented The classification of the holdings in this division will be found The average area of the large estates in the last series is 21,798 ac

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cultiv	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Pr to Ho
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	per
1 to 30 acres	2,242	24,411	1·44	10,611	4
31 to 400 acres	3,381	405,049	23·94	45,645	1
401 to 1,000 acres	415	259,599	15·34	6,440	
1,001 to 10,000 acres ..	265	698,014	41·25	4,881	
10,001 acres and upwards	14	305,173	18·03	320	
Total	6,317	1,692,246	100·00	67,897	

The area of Crown lands occupied in this district is 260,560 held by 410 lessees, 374 of whom have also alienated land. O area, 108,729 acres are held under conditional lease, and 151,83 under other forms of lease. The area enclosed is 209,491 acres unenclosed, 51,069 acres. Only 259 acres of Crown lands are culti chiefly in the county of Cook. The value of improvements is re at £47,214, or an average of about 3s. 7d. per acre occupied.

The area of alienated land in holdings over 1 acre in extent a Crown lands in occupation is 1,952,806 acres; and deducting fro the area cultivated—68,156 acres—there remains an area of 1,8 acres used for grazing and dairying. The total area of the ed in this division being 5,310,080 acres, there remain unalienated occupied about 3,320,000 acres of Crown lands, making allowance ll holdings under 1 acre not included in the figures given above.

SOUTH COAST DISTRICT.

e earlier portion of the present century colonization took a y direction from the metropolis, and settlement extended rapidly e lower valleys of the rivers of the South Coast, where the best ere alienated in grants of large areas to a few families. Later ever, the nature of the country and a more intelligent apprehen- he principles which should guide colonization brought about the ion of these large estates into numerous and comparatively ldings, which are at present cultivated by a fairly prosperous . This is especially the case in the county of Camden. The area of estates in Auckland and Dampier, owing to their distance e metropolis, and perhaps also to the mountainous character of erable portion of the land within their boundaries, reaches 376 acres respectively; but as the metropolis is approached the area of the holdings decreases to 235 acres in St. Vincent and es in Camden, the average for the whole district being 228 acres ling.

e South Coast district alienated rural lands are occupied in the illustrated in the following table :—

ies.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
......	1,739	1,505	460	74	4	17	3,709	391,778	267,059	658,837
t	711	353	133	129	11	26	1,363	232,239	88,740	320,979
......	336	93	37	76	1	9	552	152,964	33,192	186,156
......	542	190	104	62	5	8	911	283,755	58,360	342,115
......	3,328	2,141	734	341	21	60	6,625	1,060,736	447,351	1,508,087

rea of alienated land is shown to be 1,508,087 acres, or 28·97 t. of the total area—5,205,120 acres—of this portion of the the extent of land occupied by the proprietors themselves ,060,736 acres, or 70·34 per cent.; and of that leased to tenant rs, 447,351 acres, or 29·66 per cent. of the area alienated. There gether in these counties 3,328 occupiers of their own freeholds, 2,141 tenants of private rented lands, 734 persons occupying bo own and leased private lands, 341 occupiers of freehold with lands attached, 21 persons occupying private rented lands with lands attached, and 60 persons whose holdings are partly the partly leased from private owners, and partly belonging to the C a total of 6,625 occupiers. The area of alienated land encl 1,379,852 acres, leaving 128,235 acres unenclosed. The area in tion is 53,071 acres, of which 32,181 acres represent land occu the owners, and 20,890 acres land held under private tenancy.

The holdings in this division may be classified as under. The area of large estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 15,817 acres

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area under Cul	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Pro
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	pe
1 to 30 acres	1,761	14,076	0·93	2,228	
31 to 400 acres	4,030	596,047	39·52	35,371	
401 to 1,000 acres	624	381,934	25·33	9,644	
1,001 to 10,000 acres	205	436,942	28·97	4,992	
10,001 acres and upwards	5	79,088	5·25	836	
Total	6,625	1,508,087	100·00	53,071	

The area of Crown lands occupied is 185,991 acres, 85,652 acre held under conditional lease. The area enclosed is 114,768 acre unenclosed, 371,223 acres. The cultivated area is 337 acres--ne in the counties of St. Vincent and Auckland. The total number of is 185, of whom 63 occupy Crown lands only; and the value of im ments on Crown lands is returned at £45,730, or an average of 1s. 10d. per acre occupied. This average may seem low, but is acc for by the fact that a large area is unenclosed, especially in Auckland.

The area of alienated land and Crown lands occupied is 1,9 acres, and, deducting the 53,408 acres cultivated, there are 1,9 acres used for grazing and dairying and other purposes. The tot of the counties comprising this district being 5,205,120 acres, tl neither alienated nor under occupation, making allowance for ali holdings under 1 acre in extent, which are not included above, about 3,070,000 acres.

NORTH COAST DISTRICT.

In the North Coast district the occupation of the country proceeded rapidly, of late years, along the banks of the fine rivers

into the Pacific Ocean. Figures regarding alienated holdings
district will be found below :—

	Occupiers of—							Area alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown lands attached.	Private rented with Crown lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	1,354	698	123	60	6	7	2,248	466,779	84,458	551,237
	274	141	33	52	2	3	505	174,321	21,834	196,155
	759	627	113	65	9	13	1,586	142,953	61,875	204,828
	234	50	10	78	3	3	378	96,532	9,214	105,746
	373	164	37	29	2	2	607	55,289	20,551	75,840
	249	270	65	50	7	9	650	83,491	46,633	130,124
	902	554	116	27	2	4	1,605	228,636	93,979	322,615
	677	271	113	128	12	13	1,214	327,413	259,117	586,530
	4,822	2,775	610	489	43	54	8,793	1,575,414	597,661	2,173,075

ll the districts of New South Wales, the North Coast counties
the best and most satisfactory results as regards settlement.
re has the great object of the Act of 1861—to place an industrious
farming population on the soil—been better fulfilled. The
umber of land-holders is 8,793, of whom only 2,775 are private
s, and 43 rent Crown lands in addition to lands owned by private
s; while 4,822 occupy their own freeholds; 610 work both their
and and additional areas rented from private owners; 489 occupy
of Crown lands together with their freeholds; and 54 add to their
nds areas leased from private persons and also from the State.
tal area alienated in this rich part of the colony amounts to
,075 acres, or only 24·38 per cent. of the total extent of the
s, which covers 8,913,640 acres; and the average area of holdings
acres, ranging from 125 acres in Raleigh to 386 acres in Richmond
83 in Gloucester. The proportion of leasehold lands to the area
ted is comparatively small, there being only 597,661 acres so held,
50 per cent. of the total alienated area; whilst 1,575,414 acres,
50 per cent., are in the occupancy of the owners of the land themselves.
In the counties of Richmond and Fitzroy the area leased by
e persons forms only 11·13 and 8·72 per cent. respectively of the
ienated; and the maximum is reached in Gloucester, where 44·18
nt. of the settled rural land is occupied by tenants.

area enclosed is 1,548,543 acres, or about 71·26 per cent. of the
and the area unenclosed is 624,532 acres. The extent of land
ivation is 148,304 acres, of which 86,775 acres are cultivated by
ners, and 61,529 acres by private tenants.

The holdings in this division may be classified as under. The area of large estates of over 10,000 acres in extent is 24,819 a

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings. Total.	Area of Holdings. Proportion to Total Area of District.	Area in Cult Total.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.
1 to 30 acres	1,378	16,555	0·76	8,502
31 to 400 acres	6,593	801,433	36·88	120,792
401 to 1,000 acres	606	370,013	17·03	13,551
1,001 to 10,000 acres	194	439,048	20·20	5,063
10,001 acres and upwards	22	546,026	25·13	396
Total	8,793	2,173,075	100·00	148,304

The area of Crown lands occupied is 1,832,369 acres, held b to the number of 709, of whom 586 occupy Crown lands in conj with alienated holdings, and 123 occupy Crown lands only. T under conditional lease is 175,322 acres; and under all other f lease, 1,657,047 acres. The extent of Crown lands enclosed is acres; and unenclosed, 1,099,717 acres. The area cultivated i acres; and the value of improvements is returned as £81,501, o 11d. per acre occupied, this small average being accounted for fact that so large an area remains unenclosed.

The area of alienated land and Crown lands occupied is 4,(acres, and deducting from this the area cultivated—149,946 there remains an area of 3,855,498 acres used for grazing and d and other purposes. The total area of the division being 8,9 acres, the area unalienated and unoccupied, making allowance fo ated holdings under 1 acre, which are not included above, will b 4,750,000 acres, a large portion of which is, however, unfit for settl

From the foregoing a fairly clear idea may be obtained of the state of rural settlement in the valleys of the coastal rivers, and country extending from the sea to the first slopes of the Great D Range. Geographical features and climate are the main elem determining the occupation of the soil, irrespective of adminis boundaries. In this part of the colony the settlement of the lands has proceeded in a way very different from that of the tal which extends from north to south, and divides the rich agric valleys of the coastal rivers and their broken mountainous wa from the immense plains of the western district.

CENTRAL TABLELAND.

After the difficulties between the coast and the interior ha overcome, the pioneers of colonization penetrated to the centra land, thence extending to the south and the north, and afte gradually spreading over the whole of the great western interior. At first they followed the course of the great rivers, and occupied, little by little, all the available land, until at the present time only very inferior country remains untenanted.

The central tableland, comprising the counties grouped around the cities of Bathurst, Orange, and Mudgee, was the first settled, and the occupation of the alienated lands at the present time is illustrated by the figures given in the following table :—

Counties.	Occupiers of—							Area alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Brisbane	436	95	72	214	4	26	847	879,397	62,757	942,154
Phillip..........	398	128	32	168	7	22	755	266,557	29,866	296,423
Bligh	132	21	14	269	1	23	460	354,960	70,022	424,982
Lincoln	190	74	27	201	4	4	509	244,585	22,836	267,421
Gordon	205	46	14	180	1	9	455	318,374	14,775	333,149
Wellington	549	210	72	254	6	24	1,115	340,545	44,484	385,029
Roxburgh	356	173	45	158	11	27	770	189,263	101,337	290,600
Ashburnham....	893	123	47	245	12	21	1,341	613,872	52,755	666,627
Bathurst	756	621	161	142	15	42	1,737	614,548	178,971	793,519
Westmoreland ..	229	94	29	220	15	40	627	169,529	45,024	214,553
Total	4,153	1,585	513	2,051	76	238	8,616	3,991,630	622,827	4,614,457

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the number of holders of rural lands in this part of the colony is 8,616, of whom 4,153 occupy their own freeholds; 1,585 are private tenants; 513 lease lands from private owners in addition to their own freeholds; 2,051 persons occupy areas of Crown lands, generally for grazing purposes, in addition to their own freeholds; 76 rent both private and Crown lands; and 238 are tenants both of private parties and the Crown, as well as possessing land of their own. The area alienated is 4,614,457 acres, representing 39·61 per cent. of the whole area of the district, which is computed at 11,649,280 acres. The proportion of land occupied by the landowners themselves is 86·50 per cent., or 3,991,630 acres; whilst 622,827 acres are leased to tenant occupiers. In the county of Roxburgh the proportion of land leased is considerable, 101,337 acres out of 290,600 acres alienated in this county, or 34·87 per cent., being held by tenants; and in Westmoreland and Bathurst 45,024 acres and 178,971 acres respectively, or 20·98 and 22·55 per cent., are held in the same manner. The proportion in the remaining counties gradually diminishes from 16·48 per cent. in Bligh and 11·55 per cent. in Wellington to 6·66 per cent. in Brisbane and 4·43 per cent. in Gordon, where the country is less thickly settled, and is occupied principally for grazing purposes. **In the central t** are situated some of the finest freehold estates in **New South W** land having remained in the hands of the **original grantees** descendants, who consolidated their holdings **by taking advant** large scale of the auction sale and improvement **clauses of t** Act of 1861.

The average area of holdings in this division is **535 acres**, from a maximum of 1,112 acres in Brisbane and 924 **acres i** owing to the cause just mentioned, to a minimum of 345 Wellington, and 342 in Westmoreland. The total **area of alien** enclosed is 4,540,339 acres, or 98·39 per cent.; the **area unenclo** only 74,118 acres. The area cultivated is 282,493 acres—207,: being land worked by the owners, and 75,288 acres by tenants.

The holdings in this division may be classified as under. Th area of large estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 22,969 acre

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cul
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.
1 to 30 acres	1,700	13,524	0·29	5,285
31 to 400 acres	5,096	836,088	18·12	144,003
401 to 1,000 acres..	1,178	736,315	15·96	76,902
1001 to 10,000 acres......	576	1,512,592	32·78	49,339
10,001 acres and upwards	66	1,515,938	32·85	6,964
Total	8,616	4,614,457	100·00	282,493

The area of Crown lands occupied on the central tableland is 3 acres, of which 1,294,679 acres are held under conditional l 8,126 acres under settlement lease. There are 3,398,688 acres and 468,664 acres unenclosed. The number of lessees is 2,554, 2,365 occupy Crown lands in addition to alienated holdings, occupy Crown lands only. The area cultivated is 4,196 acres value of improvements is returned at £455,586—an average 2s. 4d. per acre occupied.

The area of alienated land and Crown lands occupied is acres; and deducting from this the area in cultivation—286,68 there remain 8,195,120 acres used for grazing and dairying purposes. The total area of the counties comprised in the being 11,649,280 acres, the area neither alienated nor occupied, for alienated holdings under 1 acre in extent, which are not in the foregoing figures, will be about 3,045,000 acres.

SOUTHERN TABLELAND.

nditions of settlement in the southern tableland do not greatly m those which obtain in the central district, the principal being the greater proportion of holdings occupied by their pro-
The following table illustrates the state of settlement in the ounties which comprise this portion of the colony :—

L.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented, with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	263	32	13	128	3	6	445	369,164	20,509	389,673
	601	57	43	106	2	16	825	524,095	29,592	553,687
	610	132	64	99	3	14	922	766,681	67,783	834,464
	482	126	72	299	6	28	1,013	533,000	67,183	600,183
	241	84	29	264	12	50	680	266,240	71,020	337,260
	576	275	142	170	10	52	1,225	466,393	176,434	642,827
	450	161	87	189	5	58	950	777,068	127,883	904,951
	31	4	..	65	..	11	111	99,503	17,994	117,497
	117	88	11	83	2	4	305	189,145	8,737	197,882
	368	127	61	39	1	5	601	569,973	56,810	626,783
	541	200	64	86	1	20	912	593,949	53,816	647,765
	345	69	31	69	1	7	522	527,613	60,416	588,029
	128	18	17	74	3	8	248	232,254	11,962	244,216
	133	23	13	200	6	12	387	412,824	16,140	428,964
	190	44	17	113	10	14	397	323,152	16,020	339,172
	275	62	26	123	4	12	502	492,822	34,129	526,951
	5,360	1,502	690	2,107	69	317	10,045	7,143,876	836,428	7,980,304

the land alienated in this part of the colony comprises 7,980,304 r 47·63 per cent. of the whole of its area, which contains 00 acres. Of this extent of land, only 836,428 acres, or 10·48 . of the settled lands, are held in tenancy; whilst 7,143,876 r 89·52 per cent., are occupied by the landowners themselves. centage of land held in tenancy is greatest in the counties of nd Georgiana, where it is 27·44 and 21·06 respectively. There 31 per cent. in Cowley county, 14·13 in Murray, 11·19 in)·27 in Goulburn, 9·06 in Clarendon, and 8·31 in Wynyard. In r counties the proportion dwindles from 8·12 per cent. in Harden imum of 3·76 per cent. in the southern county of Wallace.

whole of this district the total number of occupiers is 10,045, of 360 occupy their own freeholds; 1,502 are private tenants; 690 oth descriptions of alienated lands; 2,107 occupy areas of Crown addition to their freeholds; 69 occupy private rented lands own lands attached; and 317 persons who possess freeholds t land from private owners and from the Crown. The conditions of settlement in which pastoral occupation is th feature must necessarily greatly affect the average extent holdings, and in this division it will be found to attain fa proportions, 794 acres being the average throughout, with a of 1,126 acres in Goulburn, and a minimum of 525 acres i The area of alienated land enclosed is 7,878,744 acres; and u 101,560 acres. The total extent in cultivation is 307,920 a 244,021 acres worked by owners, and 63,899 acres by tenan is small in proportion to the area of the district; but it is on estates of the southern tableland that there has been the mo increase in cultivation. The area cultivated on estates ov acres in extent, viz., 33,846 acres, is 193 per cent higher tha four years ago, when it stood at 22,492 acres. The advance place in every county in the district, but the county of shows an increase in the area cultivated on these large holdi 1,011 acres in the year 1892-3 to 3,866 acres in 1893-4, 11, in 1894-5, 11,616 acres in 1895-6, and 17,655 acres in 1896 average area of large estates over 10,000 acres in extent i The holdings in this division may be classified as under:—

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cu
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.
1 to 30 acres	2,002	16,874	0·21	5,062
31 to 400 acres	5,225	861,786	10·80	92,461
401 to 1,000 acres	1,472	954,673	11·96	75,888
1,001 to 10,000 acres ...	1,213	3,278,102	41·08	100,663
10,001 acres and upwards	133	2,868,869	35·95	33,846
Total..............	10,045	7,980,304	100·00	307,920

The area of Crown lands occupied in the counties of the tableland is 4,539,769 acres, of which there are under c lease 1,476,335 acres. The area enclosed is 3,191,717 a unenclosed 1,348,052 acres. The total number of lessees is whom 2,493 hold alienated lands also, and 173 occupy Crown l The area cultivated on Crown lands is very small—only 1, The value of improvements is returned at £421,368, or an a about 1s. 10d. per acre occupied.

The area of alienated land and Crown land occupied is 1 acres, and deducting the area cultivated, 309,246 acres, the 12,210,827 acres devoted to grazing and dairying. The tot the district is 16,755,200 acres, and making allowance for holdings under 1 acre in extent, which are not included in the there are left neither alienated nor occupied about 4,060, which, of course, include land that is of no practical use.

NORTHERN TABLELAND.

e northern tableland the disproportion between freeholders and is strongly marked, the latter forming a very small minority occupiers of alienated lands, owing to the same causes which both in the south and in the centre of this great section of the It is evident that the object of the Land Act of 1861 to class of independent settlers has been fairly successful, notding the fact that the number of actual occupiers is small comith that of the individual selectors who, since the year 1861, plied for conditional purchases. The following figures illustrate e of settlement in the part of the country in question:—

es.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	219	83	22	111	4	15	454	489,291	18,098	507,389
	248	26	24	76	..	13	387	693,676	12,906	706,582
	133	30	8	111	..	4	286	314,957	7,146	322,103
	152	39	13	141	..	9	354	154,191	22,120	176,311
	89	45	14	222	2	18	390	274,050	21,389	295,439
	594	127	38	128	3	4	894	458,439	32,982	491,421
	46	10	3	114	2	4	179	150,110	4,442	154,552
	81	30	11	179	3	8	312	228,158	13,399	241,557
	325	44	20	121	..	2	512	136,211	2,662	138,873
	7	1	..	88	1	1	98	96,791	675	97,466
	10	..	2	7	..	1	20	20,152	480	20,632
	435	137	54	144	12	18	800	553,188	42,057	595,245
	101	17	25	99	..	5	247	223,628	18,209	241,837
	15	7	..	23	..	2	47	114,235	1,499	115,734
	64	7	1	65	3	3	143	47,129	2,373	49,502
l......	2,519	603	235	1,629	30	107	5,123	3,954,206	200,437	4,154,643

total area alienated in this district is 4,154,643 acres, or 28·37 t. of the whole extent of 14,643,200 acres. The total number piers of rural settled lands is 5,123, of whom 2,519 live on their ls; 603 are tenants of private lands; 235 rent private lands tion to possessing freehold land; 1,629 occupy Crown lands in n to their freeholds; 30 occupy private rented lands with Crown ttached; and 107 persons who possess freeholds are also tenants of own and of private landowners. The proportion of the area d by private tenants is 200,437 acres, or 4·82 per cent. of the extent of alienated land; whilst 95·18 per cent., representing 06 acres, is occupied by the landowners themselves. The land both for agricultural and pastoral purposes, and these industries are generally carried on conjointly. The average area of the district is 811 acres, ranging from 271 acres per holding 2,462 acres in Drake. The average in the county of Buckin acres; but in the districts surrounding the towns of Glen Inverell a large decrease is experienced, the average area of being only 744 and 774 acres in Gough and Hardinge The area of alienated land enclosed is 3,962,425 acres; and 192,218 acres. There are 112,210 acres cultivated—that is, per cent. of the alienated area—96,127 acres being land proprietors, and 16,083 by tenants. The average area of over 10,000 acres in extent is 27,235 acres. The holdin division may be classified as under:—

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in C
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.
1 to 30 acres	975	7,749	0·18	3,242
31 to 400 acres	2,944	494,067	11·89	58,735
401 to 1,000 acres	704	444,085	10·69	26,462
1,001 to 10,000 acres ...	423	1,111,673	26·76	19,976
10,001 acres and upwards	77	2,097,069	50·48	3,795
Total	5,123	4,154,643	100·00	112,210

There are 6,107,406 acres of Crown lands occupied in thi 1,080,870 acres of which are held under conditional lease, a [illegible] acres under settlement lease. The area of Crown lands e 4,074,929 acres; and unenclosed, 2,032,477 acres. The value c ments is returned at £429,766—an average of nearly 1s. 5d occupied, the unenclosed area being very large. Only a very 469 acres, is under cultivation. The total area of alienated Crown lands held under lease is 10,262,049 acres, and deduc this the area cultivated—112,679 acres—it will be seen that devoted to grazing and dairying is 10,149,370 acres. The to the district is 14,643,200 acres, and making allowance for alie in holdings under an acre in extent, which are not included i [illegible] there remains neither alienated nor under occupation about 4,250,000 acres.

SOUTH-WESTERN SLOPE.

The districts situated on the western slope of the Great Range mark the transition between the agricultural settlem coast and tableland and the purely pastoral settlements of egion. The extent of arable land in the division is very con-, but in proportion to the total area of holdings little is devoted tion, as it is more advantageous at present to use the land for urposes, the great distance to the markets being the principal to a rapid expansion of agriculture on the tableland. Not-ding this, however, a considerable impetus has been given to re during the last two years, some of the most notable having taken place in this district.

be noticed that the proportion of land alienated considerably es as the districts on the western slope are reached, except in rts where the excellence of the land for grazing purposes, and agriculture, impelled the pastoral tenants of the Crown some o to secure their holdings from the incursions of the free —whom the Act ostensibly intended to favour—by means of tic purchases under the auction sale and improvement clauses Land Act of 1861. In the south-western districts, which are d by the principal permanent rivers of western New South the land has been alienated in a wholesale fashion, and im-areas of freehold land are in the hands of a very small number olders; while in the north-western districts the freehold estates her so numerous nor of such an enormous extent as those in th. The state of settlement in the counties situated in the n part of the western slope of the Great Dividing Range may ered from the following figures:—

ies.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienated.		
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	21	3	1	45	..	4	74	114,164	3,279	117,443
	22	6	2	165	..	6	201	537,104	6,342	543,446
	378	40	18	231	7	21	695	724,460	46,254	770,714
	398	78	30	94	2	5	607	586,021	52,364	638,385
	76	19	2	79	4	7	187	636,733	14,526	651,259
	37	15	3	51	2	2	110	339,303	13,363	352,666
	22	2	2	19	..	1	46	600,532	4,544	605,076
	52	12	3	66	1	16	150	894,288	36,930	931,218
	41	..	1	6	..	..	48	654,109	5,120	659,229
	192	57	17	36	1	6	309	619,813	44,774	664,587
	287	23	16	42	..	5	373	1,525,021	27,834	1,552,855
	171	44	12	36	2	3	268	1,645,688	28,156	1,673,844
	89	1	13	55	1	5	164	1,151,382	12,027	1,163,409
	156	21	22	7	..	1	207	469,374	14,210	483,584
	211	174	23	12	2	4	426	580,347	84,808	665,155
	315	94	48	18	1	1	477	821,862	64,372	886,234
	2,468	589	213	962	23	87	4,342	11,900,201	458,903	12,359,104

The total area of this district, commonly called Riverina, i
at 22,273,360 acres, of which 12,359,104 acres are now al
55·49 per cent. of the whole area. In some of the counties, l
greater proportion of the land has been parted with; thus i
84·36 per cent. is alienated, or 665,155 acres out of a total
acres. This county is closely followed by Hume, with 83·22
or 886,234 acres out of 1,064,960 acres; Mitchell, with
cent., or 664,587 acres out of 825,600 acres; Urana, with
cent., or 1,552,855 acres out of 1,999,080 acres; Cadell, w
per cent., or 483,584 acres out of 667,520 acres; Townsend,
per cent., or 1,673,844 acres out of 2,335,080 acres; Boyd,
per cent., or 659,229 acres out of 1,001,600 acres; Sturt,
per cent., or 605,076 acres out of 967,680 acres; and Wal
61·21 per cent., or 1,163,409 acres out of 1,900,800 acres. Th
of Waradgery, Bland, Bourke, and Cooper have respectively
cent., 49·78 per cent., 43·37 per cent., and 36·98 per cent
total areas alienated, while in Gipps 34·69 per cent. is alien
in the county of Nicholson the percentage is only 24·98, and in
only 9·97. The percentage of land held by tenants is v
ranging from 0·75 per cent. in Sturt to 12·75 in Denison, the
for the whole district being only 3·71.

The number of holders of rural lands in the Riverina
4,342, of whom 2,468 occupy their own freeholds; only
private tenants alone; 213 rent private lands in addition
freeholds; 962 persons occupy areas of Crown lands, gen
grazing purposes, in addition to their own freeholds; 23 perso
private rented lands with Crown lands attached; and 87 pe
possess freeholds also rent land from the Crown and fro
owners.

As might be expected, the average area of holdings is hig
districts, where the auction and improvement clauses of the Cr
Act of 1861 were extensively brought into operation for th
of consolidating holdings and preventing the land from fallin
hands of the free selectors, whom the great pastoral lessees di
upon as desirable neighbours. The land was, indeed, bought
sale, the pastoralists being greatly helped by the various
corporations, and their joint operations resulted in the
of immense areas of the best pastoral land in the colo
average area of holdings for the whole district is 2,846
in the county of Boyd it reaches 13,734 acres; in Stu
acres; in Wakool, 7,094 acres; in Townsend, 6,246 acre
Waradgery, 6,208 acres, diminishing from 4,163 in Urana
acres in Bourke.

Practically the whole of the alienated land in this dist
closed, only 97,930 acres out of a total area of 12,359,
being open. The area under cultivation is 535,088 acres

es represent land worked by proprietors, while 116,439 orked by tenants. The holdings in this division are thus :—

ldings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cultivation.	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Proportion to Area of Holdings.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	per cent.
....	393	2,980	0·02	722	24·23
es	1,740	377,911	3·06	107,900	28·58
acres.........	1,158	737,861	5·97	136,112	18·45
00 acres ...	856	2,259,583	18·28	195,461	8·65
and upwards	195	8,980,769	72·67	94,893	1·06
l...............	4,342	12,359,104	100·00	535,088	4·33

rage area of estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 46,055 he area cultivated on these large holdings is small in n with their total extent, but it is nevertheless nearly es as much as it was four years ago, the same tendency rvable in this district as has been referred to in the southern

l area of Crown lands occupied on the South-Western slope 51 acres, only 1,044,199 acres of which remain unfenced. The under conditional lease is 1,961,806 acres, and under settle- e, 209,974 acres. In cultivation there are 12,434 acres, of 43 acres are in the counties of Bland, Nicholson, Bourke, and The value of improvements is returned at £1,027,009, or an about 2s. 5d. per acre. The number of lessees is 1,194, of 72 occupy Crown lands attached to alienated holdings, and y Crown lands only.

a of alienated lands and Crown lands occupied is 20,848,855 deducting from this the cultivated area—547,522 acres—the ed to grazing and dairying is 20,301,333 acres. The total district is 22,273,360 acres; so that, allowing for alienation under 1 acre in area, there are not more than about 1,400,000 enated and unoccupied.

WESTERN-CENTRAL SLOPE.

The condition of settlement in regard to the lands on the westward slope is illustrated by the following table :—

Counties.	Occupiers of—							Area alienate	
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.
Gregory	11	3	4	74	1	14	107	566,426	56,360
Ewenmar	30	10	4	136	1	11	192	286,311	22,493
Canbelego	17	1	1	33	..	..	52	37,730	5
Oxley	72	7	2	62	..	5	148	242,858	9,978
Narromine	148	21	6	111	2	4	292	193,311	20,765
Flinders	3	..	..	67	..	..	70	70,640	....
Kennedy........	18	1	..	119	1	4	143	165,101	9,853
Cunningham	40	15	5	138	2	10	210	297,579	14,729
Total	339	58	22	740	7	48	1,214	1,859,956	134,174

The total area alienated amounts to 1,994,130 acres, or 17
cent. of the total area of the district, which is estimated at 11,
acres. The greatest area alienated is in the county of Gregory,
there are 622,786 acres, or 31·70 per cent. of the total area, l
settlers. The percentage of alienated land in Oxley is 29·77 ; in
mar, 23·49 ; in Cunningham, 20·37 ; in Narromine, 18·51 pe
and in Kennedy 11·93 per cent. has been parted with ; but in F
the proportion is only 4·57 per cent., and in Canbelego 2·70 pe
The land is almost entirely devoted to pastoral pursuits, there bei
35,414 acres under cultivation, of which 29,888 acres, or 84·40 pe
are in the counties of Narromine, Kennedy, and Cunningham.
1,764 acres are cultivated by tenants. Although the area occ
tenants is proportionately larger than is the case farther south, t
only 134,174 acres so held, the proprietors occupying 1,859,956 a
of the 1,994,130 acres of alienated land which the district contain
proportion held by tenants ranges from 9·70 per cent. in Narrom
9·05 per cent. in Gregory to 3·95 per cent. in Oxley and 0·01 p

giving an average of 6·73 per cent. for the whole district.
ienated land enclosed is 1,926,196 acres, and only 67,934
closed.

t of the small number of settlers in such an extensive
erage area of holdings is necessarily fairly large, although
ain to such proportions as in the south, the average of this
; 1,643 acres, with a maximum of 5,819 acres in Gregory
m of 725 acres in Canbelego.

gs in this division may be thus classified. The average
estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 27,760 acres :—

ings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cultivation.	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Proportion to Area of Holdings.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	per cent.
....	154	1,668	0·08	304	18·22
....	355	67,751	3·40	5,864	8·66
res	424	268,431	13·46	10,722	3·99
acres ...	245	656,928	32·94	14,059	2·14
l upwards	36	999,352	50·12	4,465	0·45
....	1,214	1,994,130	100·00	35,414	1·78

f Crown lands occupied in this district is 7,681,082 acres,
7,388 acres are enclosed. The area under conditional lease
acres, and under settlement lease 100,756 acres ; and there
acres under homestead lease in the county of Canbelego.
der cultivation is only 5,768 acres; and the value of
s on Crown lands is £906,454, or an average of about
re occupied. There are 875 lessees, of whom 795 also have
ates, and 80 occupy Crown lands only.

area of alienated lands and Crown lands occupied is
res, of which 9,634,030 acres are devoted to the pastoral
industry. The total area embraced in the counties com-
Western-Central district is 11,228,520 acres, and making
r alienated estates under 1 acre in extent, which are not
the foregoing, there remains neither alienated nor under
of not more than 1,520,000 acres.

North-Western Slope.

In the northern portion of the western slope of the Dividing the distribution of settlement closely resembles that met with division just examined, as the following table shows :—

Counties.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienat	
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.
	No.	No.	No	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.
Stapylton	21	2	3	60	1	9	96	176,329	12,517
Burnett	75	8	3	102	..	4	192	443,108	6,083
Courallie	60	22	6	59	..	5	152	587,850	14,209
Benarba	15	2	2	158	2	8	187	300,983	16,792
Murchison	121	21	19	98	2	8	269	212,855	12,188
Nandewar	115	32	4	52	..	5	208	276,248	13,153
Jamison	21	6	1	90	..	12	130	392,128	9,485
Denham	8	5	..	80	1	8	102	218,260	29,767
Leichhardt.......	40	13	5	168	..	10	236	544,018	39,261
Baradine.........	41	9	3	79	1	2	135	122,716	3,443
White	61	7	2	17	..	2	89	37,757	3,196
Pottinger	169	26	11	117	1	6	330	855,200	24,526
Napier...........	23	5	4	31	1	5	69	157,851	14,208
Gowen...........	81	31	10	126	2	9	259	212,812	5,648
Total	851	189	73	1,237	11	93	2,454	4,538,115	214,676

The area alienated is 4,752,791 acres, or 24·81 per cent. of th area, which is 19,157,800 acres. The highest proportion of alienat is in Pottinger, around Gunnedah, where 879,726 acres, or 48 cent. of the total area of the county, calculated at 1,804,120 acre been alienated, the greater portion to the pastoralists, who have su in preventing the settlement of an agricultural class on the best of the famed Liverpool Plains. The competition between the p ists and the selectors was not so keen in the north-western as it was in the central, and more particularly in the south- division, presumably because the land, though equally good in is too distant from the markets, and the country is more exp extreme climatic influences in the northern parts. The avera of holdings throughout the district, though higher than in the western district, is not so large as the average in the south-west, r 1,937 acres, with a maximum of 3,962 acres in Courallie, owing t explained above, and a minimum of 460 acres in White. The with the exception of its eastern portion, abutting on the boun the tableland of New England, is entirely devoted to the dep of stock. There are 366 tenant occupiers, renting 214,676 a balance of the alienated area—4,538,115 acres—being occupied b proprietors. The total number of holdings is 2,454, of which

189 private rented properties, 73 partly freehold and partly
nted lands, 1,237 freeholds to which have been added Crown
private rented lands with Crown lands attached, and 93 partly
nd partly private rented and Crown lands.

oportion of land held by tenant occupiers is not large, amounting
·52 per cent. for the district. In Denham, however, it reaches
cent.; in Napier, 8·31 per cent.; in White, 7·80 per cent.;
hardt, 6·73 per cent.; and in Stapylton, 6·63 per cent.; but
ortion is very small everywhere else. The greater part of the
land in the district is enclosed, only 94,730 acres out of a total
791 acres remaining open. The area cultivated is 24,648 acres,
cres being tilled by proprietors and 2,077 acres by tenants.
oldings in this division may be classified as follow. The average
large estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 32,295 acres:—

of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cultivation.	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Proportion to Area of Holdings.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	per cent.
cres	267	2,191	0·05	580	26·47
acres	1,017	170,013	3·58	11,752	6·91
000 acres.........	631	405,467	8·53	6,065	1·50
10,000 acres ...	448	1,236,312	26·01	4,255	0·34
res and upwards	91	2,938,808	61·83	1,996	0·07
l	2,454	4,752,791	100·00	24,648	0·52

e north-western district there are under lease 10,892,831 acres
n lands, 9,569,271 acres being enclosed and 1,323,560 acres open.
l area under conditional lease is 3,088,204 acres, and there are
acres under settlement lease. There is no cultivation to speak
entire area under crop being only 693 acres. The value of
ments on Crown lands is returned at £830,277, or about 1s. 6d.
e. There are 1,530 lessees, 1,341 occupying Crown lands in
to their alienated holdings, and 189 occupying Crown lands only.
area of alienated lands and Crown lands occupied is 15,645,622
nd deducting the area cultivated, 25,341 acres, there remain
281 acres devoted to the pastoral and dairying industries—
of course, the former. The total area of the counties comprising
ision being 19,157,800 acres, the area remaining unalienated and
ied by lease, allowing for alienation in holdings under 1 acre in
which are not included in the figures given above, will not be
an about 3,455,000 acres.

THE WESTERN PLAINS.

e extreme west of the colony settlement is making but slow
. With the exception of the great mining centre of Broken

Hill, situated on the boundary of the neighbouring colony of S
Australia, around which a large population has settled within the las
years, the whole of this vast portion of the domain of New South W
is given up to the depasturing of stock. Sheep-breeding is practi
the only industry, the general character of the country milit
against the successful rearing of cattle. The present state of settle
on the western plains is illustrated by the figures given below :—

Counties.	Occupiers of—							Area Alienated	
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold and partly Private Rented.	Freehold, with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented, with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, and partly Crown Lands.	Total.	Freehold.	Private Rented.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.
Finch	9	4	..	18	7	2	40	136,330	943
Narran	12	7	5	18	3	1	46	71,026	21,926
Culgoa	9	2	..	7	..	..	18	14,544	1,000
Gunderbooka ..	21	1	..	17	1	..	40	25,601	480
Irrara	5	..	..	6	..	..	11	11,082	....
Barrona	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	40	....
Cowper	17	12	..	19	2	1	51	38,752	2,649
Clyde	16	6	..	30	2	3	57	84,266	52,437
Robinson	36	8	1	13	1	..	59	12,797	1,234
Yanda	3	..	..	6	2	..	11	8,225	2,720
Landsborough ..	1	..	..	3	..	..	4	9,111	....
Booroondarra ..	..	..	..	5	..	..	5	2,140	....
Rankin	2	..	..	7	..	..	9	9,007	....
Killara	1	1	..	3	..	..	5	8,761	145
Woore	2	1	..	7	..	..	10	6,605	80
Werunda	4	..	..	3	..	..	7	3,067	....
Mouramba	32	..	2	8	..	..	42	8,501	210
Blaxland	23	8	1	19	..	..	51	62,383	3,046
Mossgiel	7	1	..	11	1	..	20	27,773	420
Franklin	6	5	..	17	4	2	34	200,835	5,804
Waljeers	1	2	..	11	3	1	18	195,276	19,148
Caira	42	7	6	22	..	2	79	346,798	5,580
Taila	14	1	3	8	..	..	26	18,632	2
Kilfera	3	..	..	4	..	..	7	13,013	....
Manara	..	2	..	6	..	..	8	35,142	200
Young	24	5	..	15	..	..	44	22,706	272
Yungnulgra	3	2	..	3	..	1	9	13,530	4,420
Fitzgerald	1	1	..	1	..	..	3	640	80
Ularara	3	..	..	3	1	..	7	5,803	1
Yantara	5	1	..	..	..	..	6	5,445	40
Delalah	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	360	....
Thoulcanna	1	..	..	3	..	..	4	2,730	....
Wentworth	33	5	2	14	..	1	55	69,752	748
Tara	2	..	1	11	1	..	15	39,737	7,130
Windeyer	3	1	..	7	..	..	11	27,057	4
Perry	4	..	..	6	..	1	11	42,933	120
Menindie	2	..	..	3	..	..	5	4,246	....
Livingstone	6	..	..	8	..	1	15	14,328	320
Yancowinna	133	56	2	17	2	..	210	12,169	1,426
Tandora	3	..	..	6	..	..	9	3,341	....
Farnell	1	..	..	3	..	..	4	3,182	....
Mootwingee	2	1	..	9	..	..	12	7,661	80
Evelyn	3	3	..	5	..	..	11	5,224	290
Poole	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	120	....
Tongowoko	3	..	..	4	..	..	7	2,062	....
Total	498	143	23	389	30	16	1,099	1,632,733	18

oportion of land alienated is only 2·13 per cent. of the total area
strict, being an aggregate of 1,765,694 acres out of 82,705,080
ich the division is estimated to contain. Of this area, 1,632,733
in the occupancy of the landowners, and only 132,961 acres are
er private lease, this kind of tenure being principally met with
ounties of Caira, Narran, Waljeers, Clyde, Franklin, and Tara.
l number of holdings is 1,099, of which 498 are freehold; 143
ented properties; 23 partly freehold and partly private leasehold;
holds to which considerable areas of Crown lands are attached;
te rented holdings with Crown lands attached; and 16 freeholds
h private rented and Crown lands attached. The average area
ated holdings for the whole western division is 1,607 acres, the
in many counties, owing to the small number of holdings, being
ge. In Waljeers it reaches 11,912 acres; in Franklin, 6,078 acres;
, 4,460 acres; in Manara, 4,418 acres; and in Perry, 3,914 acres.
rage in Finch is 3,432 acres; in Tara, 3,124 acres; in Windeyer,
cres; in Clyde, 2,398 acres; in Landsborough, 2,278 acres; in
2,021 acres; in Yungnulgra, 1,995 acres; in Kilfera, 1,859
n Killara, 1,781 acres; in Mossgiel, 1,410 acres; in Blaxland,
cres; in Wentworth, 1,282 acres; and in Irrara, 1,007 acres.
kin it is 1,001 acres; diminishing in the other counties from
s in Yanda to 120 acres in Poole; while in Yancowinna (in the
Hill District) there are 210 holdings averaging 65 acres each.
one holding of 40 acres in Barrona. The land is used purely
oral purposes, except in the vicinity of townships, where market-
ng and fruit-growing are carried on, principally by Chinese.

rea of alienated land enclosed in this division is 1,699,879 acres;
nclosed, 65,815 acres. In cultivation there is an area of 10,068
nly 539 acres of which are tilled by tenants. The average area
estates over 10,000 acres in extent is 34,002 acres.

oldings on the western plains may be classified as follows :—

of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area of Holdings.		Area in Cultivation.	
		Total.	Proportion to Total Area of District.	Total.	Proportion to Area of Holdings.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	per cent.
cres	357	1,232	0·07	260	21·10
) acres	359	49,520	2·81	1,998	4·03
000 acres.........	181	121,870	6·90	2,435	2·00
10,000 acres ...	170	505,016	28·60	3,835	0·76
resand upwards	32	1,088,056	61·62	1,540	0·14
tal	1,099	1,765,694	100·00	10,068	0·57

The area of Crown lands occupied in this division is very large, there being no less than 72,975,600 acres under various forms of lease. Under homestead lease there are 10,529,438 acres. There is a small area of 437,455 acres under conditional lease, granted under the Act of 1884, but this form of lease is no longer obtainable in the western division. The number of lessees of Crown lands is 1,618, of whom 435 occupy Crown lands in addition to their alienated holdings, while 1,183 occupy Crown lands only. The value of improvements is returned at £4,859,946—an average of about 1s. 4d. per acre occupied.

The total area of alienated lands and Crown lands occupied is 74,741,294 acres, which is all devoted to pastoral pursuits with the exception of 18,915 acres under crop. The total area of the counties of the western plains is computed at 82,705,080 acres, and the area remaining unoccupied or unalienated is, therefore, not quite 8,000,000 acres.

AREA OF HOLDINGS.

It will be gathered from an analysis of the figures which have been given that settlement in New South Wales has hitherto tended towards the concentration into comparatively few hands of the lands alienated to a large number of individual selectors, and that in the great majority of cases the owner of the land is also the occupier. Tenancy, as understood in older settled communities, has made comparatively little progress, 90·19 per cent. of the land alienated being yet in the occupancy of the proprietors themselves, or an area of 39,204,694 acres; whilst only 4,262,518 acres, or 9·81 per cent., are held under lease from the freeholders.

Below will be found the number of holdings of various sizes throughout the colony, distinguishing freehold from rented land. It will be understood that here, as elsewhere in this chapter, though reference is made to holders who occupy Crown lands in addition to alienated lands, the area of such Crown lands is not considered in treating of the size of the holdings:—

Size of Holdings.	Number of Holdings.						
	Freehold.	Private Rented.	Partly Freehold & partly Private Rented.	Freehold, with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented, with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented, partly Crown Lands.	Total.
1 to 30 acres	10,656	5,858	859	139	24	11	17,547
31 to 400 acres	17,846	7,270	2,081	5,069	207	268	32,741
401 to 1,000 acres	3,195	707	667	2,665	51	232	7,517
1,001 to 10,000 acres	1,561	253	438	1,926	42	446	4,666
10,001 acres and upwards	69	5	26	455	3	114	672
Total	33,327	14,093	4,071	10,254	327	1,071	63,143

ienated area of the holdings referred to in the table just given, freehold or rented, will be found in the figures subjoined, which r the percentage of alienated land to be found in the holdings pecified size, as well as the proportion each size of holding, freehold or rented, bears to the total area alienated :—

Holdings.	Area of Holdings.			Proportion to Total Alienated Area of the Colony.		
	Freehold.	Rented.	Total.	Freehold.	Rented.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	⅌ cent.	⅌ cent.	⅌ cent.
res	91,546	60,975	152,521	0·21	0·14	0·35
acres	3,745,206	1,105,778	4,850,984	8·62	2·54	11·16
00 acres	4,042,169	717,009	4,759,178	9·30	1·65	10·95
0,000 acres ...	10,733,823	1,540,483	12,274,306	24·69	3·55	28·24
es and upwards	20,591,950	838,273	21,430,223	47·37	1·93	49·30
tal..............	39,204,694	4,262,518	43,467,212	90·19	9·81	100·00

bove figures strikingly illustrate the present condition of coloni- ı New South Wales, and their meaning should not be lost sight ose who watch with attention the various phases of settlement ountry. The proportion of land in holdings less than 30 acres t is only 0·35 per cent. of the total area of land alienated in the and represents an aggregate of 152,521 acres out of a total of 12 acres; this small acreage consists of 17,547 holdings, each g an average of 8·7 acres. Holdings between 31 and 400 extent number 32,741, with an aggregate area of 4,850,984 11·16 per cent. of the area alienated in the colony, giving an of 148 acres per holding. It is in this category that a great of the land devoted to cultivation is to be found. In areas 401 and 1,000 acres are to be found 7,517 estates, the number g rapidly as the area increases, aggregating in all 4,759,178 10·95 per cent. of the area alienated, giving each an average acres. The tendency just noted becomes still more marked in ings between 1,001 and 10,000 acres in extent, their number ly 4,666, whilst they aggregate 12,274,306 acres, or 28·24 per the total area alienated in the colony, giving an average of

2,631 acres per holding. The climax is reached, however, in the
of more than 10,000 acres in extent. Of these there are
aggregating 21,430,223 acres, or 49·30 per cent. of the wh
alienated from the Crown, each averaging an area of 31,890 acr

SETTLEMENT AND AGRICULTURE.

Some remarks as to the relative state of agriculture and of se
on the alienated rural lands of the colony cannot fail to be of
especially when read in conjunction with the preceding figur
following table deals with this question, and the figures carry wi
their own explanation :—

Size of Holdings.	Alienated Holdings.	Area Alienated.		Area Cult
		Total.	Proportion to area of Colony.	Total.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.
1 to 30 acres	17,547	152,521	0·08	53,603
31 to 400 acres	32,741	4,850,984	2·44	649,402
401 to 1,000 acres	7,517	4,759,178	2·39	366,903
1,001 to 10,000 acres	4,666	12,274,306	6·17	404,759
10,001 acres and upwards	672	21,430,223	10·78	149,051
Total	63,143	43,467,212	21·86	1,623,718

Although the highest proportion of land cultivated in any
series, when compared with the total area alienated in the
found in holdings from 31 to 400 acres in extent, yet when
with the aggregate area alienated in the series itself it repres
13·39 per cent. of it; whilst on the smaller holdings, less than
in extent, as much as 35·14 per cent. of the area alienated
cultivation. The proportion considerably decreases as the hig
are reached, being reduced to 0·70 per cent. in those over 10,

From the table given on page 300, some interesting inform
be gleaned with regard to the proportion of the number of
land who still occupy their freeholds, those who reside on
and those who occupy, in addition to their freeholds, lands
from private owners or from the Crown; but a more
view of these two phases of settlement may be ob

ation of the following table, in which the holdings are divided greater number of categories according to their sizes :—

of Holdings.	Holdings consisting of—							Total Area Alienated.
	Freehold Land.	Private Rented Land.	Partly Freehold & partly Private Rented Land.	Freehold Land, with Crown Lands attached.	Private Rented Land, with Crown Lands attached.	Partly Freehold, partly Private Rented & partly Crown Lands.	Total.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	acres.
res	5,780	2,920	281	87	8	2	9,078	24,014
cres	3,028	1,615	315	29	11	6	5,004	48,730
acres	1,848	1,323	263	23	5	3	3,465	79,777
acres	3,984	1,864	249	597	31	4	6,729	280,931
acres	4,655	2,327	466	958	65	28	8,499	673,958
0 acres	4,901	1,816	685	1,394	56	82	8,934	1,356,048
0 acres	2,300	777	420	938	24	81	4,540	1,150,489
0 acres	2,006	486	261	1,182	31	73	4,039	1,389,558
0 acres	900	239	186	515	10	44	1,894	866,194
0 acres	642	133	146	329	7	39	1,296	720,444
0 acres	839	150	117	1,227	23	39	2,395	1,544,148
0 acres	334	82	85	248	6	43	798	599,676
0 acres	252	46	67	168	3	29	565	484,732
000 acres	228	57	66	178	2	38	569	543,984
1,500 acres	650	111	154	629	15	109	1,668	2,069,729
2,000 acres	295	53	98	362	11	70	889	1,567,103
3,000 acres	305	52	79	354	4	90	884	2,186,173
4,000 acres	137	11	37	194	3	61	443	1,543,107
5,000 acres	55	7	22	121	2	43	250	1,133,420
7,500 acres	75	10	35	164	6	44	334	2,048,761
10,000 acres	44	9	13	102	1	29	198	1,726,013
15,000 acres	24	3	11	130	2	39	209	2,612,243
20,000 acres	17	1	3	79	....	19	119	2,079,722
30,000 acres	12	....	8	88	1	26	135	3,350,032
40,000 acres	6	1	2	46	....	9	64	2,269,961
res and upwards	10	....	2	112	....	21	145	11,118,265
l	33,327	14,093	4,071	10,254	327	1,071	63,143	43,467,212

m the above it will be seen that the total number of occupiers of lds only is 33,327, the proportion to the total number of occupiers fairly constant in each size of holdings. Absolute tenants of e lands, who number 14,093, are far more numerous in the r classes of holdings, and rapidly diminish both in number and oportion as the estates become larger. The same is the case with l to holders of freehold and private rented land, who number 4,071. The persons who possess freeholds with Crown lands ed number 10,254, and 45 per cent. of the holdings over 1,000 in extent are in this category. Occupiers whose holdings are made up of private rented lands and partly of Crown lands only er 327 altogether ; while owners of freehold, who are Crown ts and private tenants at the same time, show a total of 1,071.

re are 2,341 occupiers of Crown lands only, not connected with ted holdings. The total area of alienated holdings over 1 acre in t in the colony is 43,467,212 acres, and of the Crown lands occupied

117,135,695 acres, making a total of 160,602,907 acres. Of t
158,943,190 acres are used for grazing and dairying, and 1,659,7
for agriculture. The total value of improvements on Crown
returned at £9,108,351—equal to 1s. 5·7d. per acre.

The figures in regard to holdings represent rural settleme
and account for 43,467,212 acres out of a total of 45,257,468 a
have been alienated. The balance of 1,790,256 acres represen
in cities and towns, and rural lands abandoned, to all appeara
their owners. The lands of the colony are held by 136,000
the owners being almost equally distributed between the towns
country.

LABOUR SETTLEMENTS.

In June, 1893, an Act was passed to promote the establish
labour settlements, thus enabling persons without capital to pro
themselves and their families. The land may be leased for twen
years, with a right of renewal, and loans of money are granted t
the settlers to carry on operations, the first repayment of the loan
rent of the land not being required until four years from the
the lease. During 1894 an Amending Act was passed, emp
the Minister to double the amount of loan authorised under the
Act. The control of each establishment is left in the hands of a
Funds are provided by the Treasury from which the Board may,
approval of the Minister, grant the following sums:—To each
member with a family dependent on him, not exceeding £50; to
persons without family, a sum not exceeding £40; and to each
unmarried, a sum not exceeding £30. At the close of the yea
two settlements were in existence, viz., Wilberforce and Beg
Pitt Town settlement, which had been established in June, 18
an area of 2,100 acres, was converted into a Casual Labour Farm
17th June, 1896. The Bega settlement was established in Jul
the area being 1,360 acres and the population consisting of
20 women, and 74 children, or a total of 114. The improvem
valued at £1,557, and the amount of loans is £1,746. In Augu
the Wilberforce settlement was formed, and now contains 88
finding home and employment for 18 men and 15 women,
children, or a total population of 86. The value of improve
£2,107, and the amount of loans advanced £2,480.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

soil of New South Wales is as varied as the climate is diversi-
d, and within the boundaries of the colony may be cultivated
the productions of the temperate regions, but even those of
of sub-tropical latitudes. Except in the inaccessible or rugged
of the mountain chains and the more arid regions of the north-
districts, the soil is almost everywhere susceptible of cultivation.
absolutely unfit for occupation of any sort has been roughly
d at less than 5,000,000 acres; and it may be said that the
part of the land adapted for settlement is in some form or other
of being cultivated. But success in tillage in the colony is
er independent of the mere fitness of the soil for cultivation.
gular rainfall and a want of uniformity in the seasons, which
chief characteristics of the climate of a large part of the
, have impeded the advance of agriculture in the great western
And to these obstacles there may be added the cost of transport,
owing to the great distance that produce has to be carried by
s told greatly against cultivation for export—a resource which
e the chief hope of the farmers in a country so sparsely popu-
New South Wales, and consequently one affording such a small
arket.

Cultivation.

records relating to the farming operations of the early days of the
are necessarily both imperfect and meagre. Among other items
rest, it is recorded that the first settler, a man named James
ntered on his farm of 30 acres at Parramatta on the 25th
y, 1789; and that the first free emigrant to undertake the cul-
of the soil of the colony was a German, named Philip Schaffer,
me out with the First Fleet as an agricultural superintendent,
with a view to attempt the culture of tobacco on behalf of the
ment. The first Government farm was an area of 9 acres at
ove, the designation of which still preserves a memory of this
ay in husbandry, as does that of Garden Island, where one of
attempts in fruit-growing was made. The character of the
e vicinity of Farm Cove was, however, by no means favourable
lture, and the crop produced was consequently very inadequate.

An agricultural settlement was next formed at Rosehill, now Parramatta ; and in November, 1791, there were here upwa acres of land under cultivation. During the same year it i that no less than 1,000 bushels of wheat, as well as 500 maize, were reaped on Norfolk Island. At the close of the there were under cultivation in New South Wales 1,186 acres w 208 with wheat, and 24 with barley ; 121 acres were laid out a and 161 acres had been cleared ready for the plough. In 180 quantity of land under cultivation amounted to 7,677 acres. I less than 125,476 acres were occupied by the Government, or granted to individuals ; 16,624 acres had been cleared, 7, were under wheat, the average yield being 18 bushels to the 5,279 acres were under barley, maize, and other crops. Owing disastrous floods, and partly to the state of political uncertai prevailed during the next few years, the area in cultivation and when Governor Macquarie came to the colony in 1 7,615 acres of land were in tillage, while when he left in area had increased to 32,267 acres. With the crossing of Mountains the area of settlement was largely widened, but a was for many years confined to the coastal zone and the At the present time an area comprising nearly 2,044,000 acres, grass-lands, is in cultivation ; while if the area prepared and the next season's agricultural operations be included, the tot 2,418,764 acres. The area under crops, properly so called, d year ended March, 1897, was 1,659,717 acres, and that under sown grasses, 384,016 acres, or a total area in cultivation of acres.

The progress of cultivation during the last twenty years is the table given below. It will be seen that the increase in t cultivation during the year ended March, 1897, was no 394,271 acres, and far exceeded that of any other year period for which the figures are supplied :—

Year ended 31st March.	Area in cultivation, including sown grass-lands.		Year ended 31st March.	Area in cultivati sown gras
	Total.	Average per inhabitant.		Total.
	acres.	acres.		acres.
1878	546,556	0·9	1888	1,048,305
1879	613,642	0·9	1889	999,298
1880	635,641	0·9	1890	1,164,475
1881	710,337	0·9	1891	1,241,419
1882	645,068	0·8	1892	1,179,621
1883	733,582	0·9	1893	1,372,007
1884	789,082	0·9	1894	1,509,404
1885	852,017	0·9	1895	1,688,542
1886	868,093	0·9	1896	1,649,462
1887	975,471	1·0	1897	2,043,733

about 0·8 per cent. of the total area of New South Wales is devoted to the growth of agricultural produce, and if the tent of land upon which permanent artificial grasses have been r dairy-farming purposes be added to the area under crops, ortion reaches only 1·0 per cent. of the total area of the colony, resents about 1·6 acres per head of its population. The propor- the total cultivated area, computed on the total area of alienated nds, is about 3·8 per cent.

npression appears to prevail that in this country purchased lands d by the settlers for agricultural purposes, whilst Crown leases e used for grazing; but such is far from being the case, as the ajority of selectors are only graziers in a small way of business, ricultural settlements, pure and simple, are confined to very areas in the alluvial lands of the lower valleys of the coastal and around two or three centres in the middle division of the table- Of the total area under crops, 1,221,141 acres, or 73·58 per cent., ltivated by the owners; while 438,576 acres, or 26·42 per cent., ltivated by tenant occupiers, including Crown land lessees. If rea under permanent grasses were added, the proportion of ted leased lands would be somewhat higher, as a number of the farms in the southern coast district, where grass is largely sown, ld on lease.

South Wales is essentially a pastoral country, and with the tion of a few districts where agriculture has taken a hold, the ation of the soil is secondary to stock-breeding. This circumstance no means due to lack of good land, and it cannot be ascribed to the s of the climate; for the colony possesses land the capabilities of h are unsurpassed for the production of any kind of agricultural pro- and its climate is certainly superior to that of other parts of the Aus- continent where the cultivation of cereals has been carried on for s past. Taken as a whole, the yield of crops in New South Wales is r than that obtained in any other continental colony, but, at the same ommunication with the metropolitan market is much more difficult. lture cannot be developed unless access to the markets be rendered asy and cheap, and to secure this desirable end in a country so vast, ith so small a population, is a matter not easily accomplished. Up present, stock-rearing has maintained the position of an occupation , while entailing considerably less physical labour and personal venience, has yielded results far more remunerative than those of lture; but as population increases, and there remains no more o be taken up for grazing purposes, agricultural pursuits must be ed to under the pressure of an ever-increasing demand. As it is, er, the land devoted to agriculture affords permanent employment fair proportion of the working population of the province. The ctually under crop varies, owing to a variety of circumstances, ere is a steady increase in the surface cleared for utilisation in ay.

The number of persons reported as employed in agricultural a farming pursuits during the year ended March, 1897, was 90,814, 16,928 were females. Of the total number, 62,200 males and 4,9 were engaged in purely farming operations, whilst the dairy industry gave employment to 11,686 males and 11,948 females these be added 30,323 persons engaged in pastoral pursuits, it is e that rural occupations absorb the energies of 121,137 persons. geographical distribution of employment in these pursuits pre teresting features, the numbers of persons employed in the great d of the colony, according to the classification adopted, are shown It must be understood that the number given as engaged i farming does not include 702 hands employed in town factories

Division.	Persons employed in Agricultural Pursuits principally.					Persons employed in Pastoral Pursuits.
	Agriculture.		Dairy Farming.		Total.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.		
The Coast—						
Northern District	10,537	478	2,191	2,092	15,298	1,4[illegible]
Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys	6,507	438	882	1,167	8,994	[illegible]
County of Cumberland and Metropolis	7,138	330	518	330	8,316	201
Southern District	4,340	142	5,775	3,404	13,661	816
Total	28,522	1,388	9,366	6,993	46,269	3,475
The Table-land—						
Northern District	5,227	372	239	753	6,591	2,992
Central "	9,752	1,095	554	1,660	13,061	3,502
Southern "	9,378	614	1,310	1,942	13,244	5,046
Total	24,357	2,081	2,103	4,355	32,896	11,540
The Western Slope—						
Northern District	1,528	151	39	162	1,880	3,8[illegible]
Central "	888	122	12	22	1,044	1,9[illegible]
Southern District and Valley of the Murray	6,476	1,144	125	385	8,130	4,64[illegible]
Total	8,892	1,417	176	569	11,054	10,4[illegible]
The Western Plains	429	94	41	31	595	4,87[illegible]
Grand Total	62,200	4,980	11,686	11,948	90,814	30,[illegible]

rder to appreciate the proper bearing of the figures in the above it is advisable to consider them in conjunction with the figures ing the area brought into cultivation within each division, and will be found appended :—

Division.	Total Area occupied.	Area under Crops.	Area Cleared and Prepared for Cultivation.	Area under Permanent Artificially-sown Grasses.	Area Ring-barked and Partially Cleared.
ast—	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
rthern District....	4,005,444	149,946	19,430	105,958	732,135
nter and Hawkes- ury Valleys........	1,952,806	68,156	5,123	7,938	822,799
nty of Cumber- and Metropolis	475,665	46,633	3,129	2,645	30,600
ern District.....	1,994,078	53,408	8,196	152,529	645,706
Total	8,427,993	318,143	35,878	269,070	2,231,240
Table-land—					
thern District.....	10,262,049	112,679	31,056	12,509	2,239,126
ntral ,, ...	8,481,809	286,689	71,229	39,690	2,856,157
thern ,, ...	12,520,073	309,246	66,288	36,859	4,269,356
Total	31,263,931	708,614	168,573	89,058	9,364,639
Western Slope—					
rthern District.....	15,645,622	25,341	13,347	676	3,162,289
ntral ,, ...	9,675,212	41,182	10,899	2,211	3,248,652
thern District, and Valley of the Mur- ay..................	20,848,855	547,522	144,515	22,722	5,025,330
Total	46,169,689	614,045	168,761	25,609	11,436,271
estern Plains ...	74,741,294	18,915	1,819	279	2,954,058
Grand Total......	160,602,907	1,659,717	375,031	384,016	25,986,208

itting together the figures in the tables just given, it will be seen the average area to each person engaged in rural pursuits is acres, ranging from 55 acres in the metropolitan county to 13,666 s in the western plains. The average for each district is shown w, and though a close distinction cannot be drawn between the al area affording employment to a man in each of the three main isions of farming, it will be apparent enough that the districts oted to market-gardening, fruit-growing, dairying, cereal-farming, grazing offer most employment per unit of area in the order given. rt from the metropolitan district, which contains numerous orchards and market-gardens, the South Coast Districts surpass others with one person to every 137 acres, followed by the Hunte District, with one to every 196 acres, and the North Coast, wit every 238 acres. Only two other districts fall below the propo one person to 1,000 acres.

Division.	Area occupied.	Persons employed.
The Coast—	acres.	No.
Northern District	4,005,444	16,787
Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys	1,952,806	9,963
County of Cumberland and Metropolis	475,665	8,517
Southern District	1,994,078	14,477
Total	8,427,993	49,744
The Table-land—		
Northern District	10,262,049	9,583
Central District	8,481,809	16,563
Southern District	12,520,073	18,290
Total	31,263,931	44,436
The Western Slope—		
Northern District	15,645,622	5,705
Central District	9,675,212	3,013
Southern District and Valley of the Murray	20,848,855	12,770
Total	46,169,689	21,488
The Western Plains	74,741,294	5,469
Grand Total	160,602,907	121,137

The total area of New South Wales is 198,634,880 acres. E of all rivers, lakes, and streams, the area is estimated at 195,882,1 of which 43,467,212 acres of alienated land, and 117,135,695 Crown land, making a total of 160,602,907 acres, were devoted industries on the 31st March, 1897. Of this area, 13,623,085 alienated land and 12,363,123 acres of Crown land were rin and partly cleared; 333,229 acres of alienated land and 50,7 of Crown land were under permanent artificially-sown grasses; acres of alienated land were cleared and prepared for cultivati 1,623,718 acres of alienated land and 35,999 acres of Cro making a total of 1,659,717 acres, were under crops. Culti carried on throughout the colony in patches scattered over va grazing areas. The best lands for producing cereals are still, probably remain for many years, in the hands of the pastoralists farmers have not always settled on the kind of country best su the cultivation of their crops. It is the settler, not the soil, d this point. It becomes, therefore, difficult to divide the nto agricultural lands, as distinguished from those purely ı character.

ea devoted to each of the principal crops during the agricul-r ended 31st March, 1897, with the quantity or value of the ıarvested, will be found below :—

ı of Crop.	Area.	Production.	Description of Crop.	Area.	Production.
	acres.			acres.	
			Sorghum for Green Food	15,898	.. ...
....	866,112	8,853,445 bush.	Orangeries—		
....	161,136	118,337 tons	Productive	8,359	487,158 cases
			Non-bearing	4,130	......
....	211,382	5,754,217 bush.	Grape-vines—		
'ood........	10,460	......	For wine-making ..	4,608	794,256 galls.
			For table use	2,693	2,885 tons
....	39,530	834,633 bush.	Non-bearing........	760	......
....	133,946	142,957 tons	Market-gardens	6,824	£168,353
'odder	5,451	......	Pumpkins and Melons ..	5,017	17,940 tons
ıd Sown			Millet—		
			Grain...	621	7,627 bush.
....	30,512	71,467 tons.	Green Fodder	2,065	......
'odder	37,357	......	Rye—		
—			Grain..............	1,487	22,000 bush.
ı year	18,194	320,276 tons.	Green Fodder	625	......
;	12,859	......	Turnips................	345	1,642 tons
....	31,170	84,214 tons.	Tobacco................	2,744	27,468 cwt.
ards—			Peas and Beans	521	4,410 bush.
tive	24,031	£159,715	Mangold-wurzel	72	349 tons
aring	8,524	......	Onions	248	535 „
			All other Crops	1,352	£17,519
....	6,453	110,340 bush.			
....	1,615	2,141 tons			
Fodder	2,616	......	Total	1,659,717	......

* Excluding vines and oranges.

ıuantities of agricultural produce harvested during the year larch, 1897, and the value of each crop, are given in the follow-ıment, the values being the average for the whole colony at the harvest was gathered :—

ı.	Production or Area.	Value.	Crop.	Production or Area.	Value.
		£			£
....	8,853,445 bush.	1,881,377	Tobacco	27,468 cwt.	41,202
....	5,754,217 „	575,422	Grapes	2,885 tons.	40,390
....	110,340 „	15,171	Oranges and Lemons	487,158 cases.	97,432
....	834,633 „	83,464	Orchards	24,031 acres.	159,715
n	29,627 „	4,444	Market-gardens....	6,824 „	168,353
....	334,902 tons.	1,339,608	Peas and Beans....	13,240 bush.	1,650
....	36,352 „	72,704	Pumpkins & Melons	17,940 tons.	44,850
l.........	74,472 acres	251,652	Wine	794,256 gall.	59,570
....	84,214 tons.	294,749	Brandy............	7,134 „	1,425
....	535 „	3,745	Unspecified Crops..	1,352 acres.	17,519
nd Man- rzel	1,991 „	2,986			
e........	320,276 „	164,141	Total value ....£		5,321,569

The area under crops, the value of the agricultural produce, average value per acre for the year 1871, **and for each year sin** are given below :—

Year ended 31st March.	Area under crops.	Total Value of Produce.	Average Value per acre.
	acres.	£	£ s. d.
1871	397,389	2,220,000	5 11 9
1881	629,180	3,829,660	6 1 9
1882	583,868	4,194,346	7 3 8
1883	660,227	3,304,891	5 0 1
1884	702,131	3,806,182	5 8 5
1885	735,021	2,836,697	3 17 2
1886	737,701	3,375,882	4 11 6
1887	837,468	3,943,645	4 14 2
1888	855,627	4,151,692	4 17 1
1889	798,966	3,298,759	4 2 7
1890	947,072	4,459,861	4 14 2
1891	852,704	4,136,887	4 17 0
1892	846,383	3,584,490	4 4 8
1893	1,010,727	3,961,367	3 18 5
1894	1,206,992	3,861,771	3 4 0
1895	1,325,964	3,395,571	2 11 3
1896	1,348,600	4,066,946	3 0 4
1897	1,659,717	5,321,569	3 4 2

WHEAT.

In the early days of settlement the Hawkesbury River Vall the country adjacent to the towns of Parramatta, Liverpool, I Camden, and Maitland, were the principal centres of wheat cult Unskilful farming, and the consequent exhaustion of the soil, w attendant evils of rust, smut, and other diseases, caused these d to be abandoned little by little as wheat-country, and on the di of the Bathurst Plains their importance at once ceased. The d of Bathurst, Goulburn, Gundagai, Tumut, Young, Monaro, an England were each in turn occupied by agriculturists, and the sui of their soil and climate, as well as that of the whole of the m plateau, for the growth of this cereal became definitely esta Subsequently the cultivation was extended in a south-westerl tion to the Riverina Plains, where at present it is receiving

, as will be seen from the following table, showing the distri-
f the area cut for grain during the agricultural year ended
897, with the production and average yield of each of the great
of the colony :—

Division.	Area cut for grain.	Yield.	
		Total.	Per acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
t—			
rn District	1,286	19,351	15·0
and Hawkesbury Valleys	3,065	44,071	14·4
of Cumberland and Metropolis	86	1,687	19·6
rn District	1,147	16,909	14·7
Total	5,584	82,018	14·7
e-land—			
rn District	55,585	803,909	14·5
l ,,	147,604	1,632,617	11·7
rn ,,	195,463	1,851,152	9·5
Total	398,652	4,287,678	10·8
tern Slopes—			
rn District	11,150	137,995	12·4
l ,,	19,283	125,229	6·5
rn District and Valley of the ray	429,887	4,213,668	9·8
Total	460,320	4,476,892	9·7
tern Plains	1,556	6,857	4·4
and Total	866,112	8,853,445	10·2

interesting to note that agriculture is gaining ground in those
where the greatest number of the huge freehold estates, accumu-
pastoralists under the auction sales and improvement clauses of
d Act of 1861, are situated. It is in the valleys of the Murray,

[illegible] Murrumbidgee, and the Lachlan that the struggle between s [illegible] has been fiercest, and it is there that the most rem [illegible] in wheat growing and in agriculture generally is now ex This point is illustrated by the following statement, which sh [illegible] or decrease in the total area cultivated and in the lan [illegible] in each of the divisions of the colony during the ten ye [illegible] March, 1877 and March, 1887 :—

[illegible]	Total area under Crops.		Area under W Grain and	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	1887.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	30	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	68	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	25,341	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	41,182	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	547,522	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	614,045	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	18,915	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	1,659,717	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] that by far the larger prop [illegible] devoted to wheat and in g [illegible] Riverina district. Indeed, in [illegible] the additional land devoted to c [illegible]ively small; while in the Hunte [illegible] been a falling off. In the foll e area under wheat harvested for grain and the yield in bushels m. The periods selected are, as in the former table, the years arch, 1887 and 1897 :—

Division.	1887.		1897.	
	Area for Grain.	Production.	Area for Grain.	Production.
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
st—				
ern District	26	469	1,286	19,351
r and Hawkesbury Valleys	2,922	45,415	3,065	44,071
y of Cumberland	4	85	86	1,687
ern District	314	5,506	1,147	16,909
Total	3,266	51,475	5,584	82,018
le-land—				
ern District	32,379	486,246	55,585	803,909
al ,,	111,672	1,973,431	147,604	1,632,617
ern ,,	85,959	1,625,065	195,463	1,851,152
Total	230,010	4,084,742	398,652	4,287,678
stern Slope—				
ern District	5,485	76,072	11,150	137,995
al ,,	18,360	358,822	19,283	125,229
ern District and Valley of Murray	80,444	1,295,639	429,887	4,213,668
Total	104,289	1,730,533	460,320	4,476,892
stern Plains	165	2,094	1,556	6,857
rand Total	337,730	5,868,844	866,112	8,853,445

cultivation of wheat during the past thirty years has been very ar. For some years prior to 1867 the area under crop had ed almost stationary at a little more than 125,000 acres. In owever, the acreage increased to 175,000 acres, and eleven years e area reaped for grain was practically the same, although during ervening period it had fluctuated to the extent of 50,000 acres. nore land was again laid under the cereal, and in 1879 the area ed to 233,252 acres. Since that time cultivation has been greatly d, the maximum area cut for grain being reached in 1897 with acres. Below will be found a statement showing the area under

wheat for grain since 1868, with the total production and the
yield per acre :—

Year ended 31st March.	Area under Crop.	Yield.		Year ended 31st March.	Area under Crop.	Yi
		Total.	Average per acre.			Total.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.		acres.	bushels.
1868	149,142	1,433,807	9·61	1884	289,757	4,345,437
1869	164,206	1,787,085	10·88	1885	275,249	4,271,394
1870	189,452	3,200,959	16·89	1886	264,867	2,733,133
1871	147,997	999,595	6·75	1887	337,730	5,868,844
1872	154,030	2,229,642	14·48	1888	389,390	4,695,849
1873	177,551	2,898,463	16·32	1889	304,803	1,450,503
1874	169,330	2,273,620	13·43	1890	419,758	6,570,335
1875	166,911	2,148,394	12·87	1891	333,233	3,649,216
1876	133,609	1,958,640	14·66	1892	356,666	3,963,668
1877	145,608	2,391,979	16·43	1893	452,921	6,817,457
1878	176,686	2,455,507	13·84	1894	593,810	6,502,715
1879	233,252	3,439,326	14·74	1895	647,483	7,041,378
1880	233,368	3,613,266	15·48	1896	596,684	5,195,312
1881	253,137	3,717,355	14·69	1897	866,112	8,853,445
1882	221,887	3,405,966	15·35			
1883	247,361	4,042,395	16·35			
				Average for 30 Years......		

The great increase in the area under crop in 1897 shows that i
attention is being directed to the cultivation of wheat in Ne
Wales, and there is evidence that the yield is sufficient to m
crop payable. Hitherto the colony has lagged behind its neigh
this important industry, but in the above table it has been sho
lack of capacity to produce a payable average has not been the
this tardiness in development. Taking the whole period of thirt
it will be seen that the average yield has been 12·53 bushels to
A yield of 15 bushels has not been uncommon, while in 1887 the
reached the comparatively high figure of 17·3 bushels. In 1895
of the crops were ruined by the absence of rain, and the ave
8·71 bushels yielded in that year was the lowest obtained sinc
with the exception of 6·75 bushels in 1871 and 4·75 bushels i
The average yield in the following year was 1·5 bushel higher;
was, at the same time, the second lowest since 1888-9.

Dividing the period of thirty years into quinquennial peri
average yields per acre were as follow :—

Quinquennial period.	Average per acre.
1868–72	11·99 bushels.
1873–77	14·71 ,,
1878–82	14·89 ,,
1883–87	15·02 ,,
1888–92	11·27 ,,
1893–97	10·90 ,,

pite of the lower averages for the last ten years, it may be said om equal qualities of soil a better yield is now obtained than years ago—a result due largely to improved farming; but at ne time it must not be lost sight of that the occurrence of rust, and other forms of disease in wheat has been less frequent and neral of recent years.

he average yield per acre be compared with the results obtained other Australasian colonies, it will be found that New South occupies a satisfactory position, its average being exceeded by ne other province of continental Australia, viz., Queensland. will be found the average of each province, and the maximum inimum obtained during the last ten years. It will be seen from llowing table that in South Australia and Western Australia the 1896-7 was the worst experienced during the decade, while the us season was the worst experienced in Victoria in the course of st ten years:—

Colony.	Yield in 1897.	Yield per acre during ten years, 1888-97.		
		Average.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
outh Wales	8,853,445	11·0	15·7 (1890)	4·8 (1889)
a	7,076,022	8·6	11·1 (1891)	4·0 (1896)
sland	601,254	14·7	22·1 (1888)	0·9 (1889)
Australia	2,804,493	5·9	7·9 (1890)	1·7 (1897)
rn Australia	243,927	11·0	14·2 (1890)	7·6 (1897)
nia	1,286,330	17·5	20·2 (1889)	15·1 (1894)
Zealand	5,926,523	23·8	27·8 (1896)	19·0 (1891)

mpared with the production of wheat in the majority of European ries, that of New South Wales will appear inconsiderable, both ards the total quantity obtained, and the yield per acre. In the ving table will be found returns from some of the chief wheating countries of the world, showing the average production per acre is cereal:—

Country.	Average yield per acre.	Country.	Average yield per acre.
	bushels.		bushels.
rk	31·1	Ontario	14·1
Kingdom	29·3	Hungary	13·6
y	25·1	Italy	12·1
m	21·5	United States	11·7
d	21·5	Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.	9·9
ba	20·3		
ny	18·8	Russia in Europe	4·6
	16·9		
a	16·4	New South Wales (30 years)	12·5
Columbia	15·0	Australasia (10 years)	9·1

FICIENCY OF WHEAT PRODUCTION.

e first time, the production of wheat in New ailed the consumption, and with a fairly good the following year's harvest will result in a e accompanying table has been prepared with e state of the colony in this respect, and sh ption of wheat, the home production, and t thirty-five years. In the column giving the tot ccount is taken of the quantity added to or tak e case may be; and the figures showing the to d the average per head are exclusive of wheat requ h year the production for the twelve months ended against the consumption for the year ended De n 1896 a considerable deficiency is apparent. Th of the season 1896–7 will not be seen until t en added to the table:—

	Total per annum.			Average per head per	
	Apparent consumption.	Home production.	Apparent deficiency.	Apparent consumption.	Home production.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
[illegible]	2,397,139	977,343	1,419,796	6·2	2·5
[illegible]	3,038,512	1,712,619	1,325,893	6·4	3·6
[illegible]	3,638,081	2,090,807	1,547,274	6·4	3·7
[illegible]	4,415,178	2,802,310	1,612,868	6·4	4·0
[illegible]	5,742,906	3,316,495	2,426,411	6·5	3·8
[illegible]	7,159,762	3,896,907	3,262,855	6·6	3·6
[illegible]	6,489,476	3,285,772	3,203,704	5·5	2·8
[illegible]	7,656,374	5,947,851	1,708,523	6·3	4·9
[illegible]	7,360,690	5,536,115	1,824,575	5·9	4·5
[illegible]	7,305,786	6,079,755	1,226,031	5·8	4·8
[illegible]	7,499,419	3,911,013	3,588,406	5·8	3·0

be seen from the statement last given, that, up to 189 Wales was far from the position of being able to supply th d for the food of its inhabitants, although from the f

y table it would seem that in this respect the country has made
progress towards the independence in wheat supply which it
ttained in 1897 :—

Period for which an average has been taken.	Average per head per annum.		
	Consumption.	Home production.	Deficiency.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1862–66	6·2	2·5	3·7
1867–71	6·4	3·6	2·8
1872-76	6·4	3·7	2·7
1877–81	6·4	4·0	2·4
1882–86	6·5	3·8	2·7
1887-91	6·6	3·6	3·0
1892-96	5·9	4·0	1·9

deficiency for the five years covered by the period 1887-91 was 3
per head, equivalent to 46 per cent. of the whole consumption.
the five years extending from 1892 to 1896 the consumption of
per head was 5·9 bushels, which is somewhat under the average ;
e deficiency was reduced to 1·9 bushels per head. The probable
ments for the year 1897, reckoning the consumption at 5·9 bushels
d, exclusive of seed, will be about 7,737,000 bushels; the year's
tion has been 8,853,000 bushels ; hence, after allowing for seed,
ry is compelled again to import, although only on a very limited
o supply the requirements of its population. In 1898 the require-
f the population will probably be about 8,000,000 bushels, and
believed that the area sown exceeds that of last season, and
em to be fair prospects of a comparatively good harvest, it is
ted that there will be a surplus available for export.

average consumption of wheat in New South Wales, as shown
mounts to 5·9 bushels per head—a rate which is higher than that
countries the records of which are available for reference. The
ption includes what is used for all purposes except seed, a fact
nust be borne in mind, as the quantity of flour used for the
cture of biscuits and other articles, as well as for other than
rposes, is not inconsiderable.

WHEAT CROP OF THE WORLD.

mportance of Australasia in the wheat market of the world is
t, since, out of a total production of about 2,378 million bushels

raised in 1896, only about 27 million bushels, or 1·1 per Australasian. The following statement shows the wheat world during each of the last five years :—

Country.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Europe—	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Russia and Poland	256,710,000	359,873,000	383,862,000	333,479,000
France	301,293,000	277,980,000	343,113,000	348,280,000
Hungary	136,753,000	149,069,000	152,305,000	152,345,000
Italy	111,960,000	130,355,000	117,958,000	111,960,000
Germany	115,960,000	109,562,000	110,359,000	102,383,000
Spain	67,976,000	83,968,000	103,964,000	103,964,000
Roumania	58,379,000	58,379,000	42,386,000	65,978,000
United Kingdom	60,777,000	50,383,000	59,176,000	37,986,000
Bulgaria	41,586,000	33,986,000	35,988,000	45,962,000
Caucasia	67,996,000	65,177,000	59,980,000	63,976,000
Turkey	39,984,000	31,988,000	27,988,000	35,988,000
Austria	49,582,000	42,396,000	47,183,000	40,385,000
Belgium	21,193,000	16,793,000	18,394,000	18,394,000
Servia	10,395,000	8,797,000	7,996,000	9,998,000
Greece	7,996,000	7,996,000	7,199,000	5,998,000
Holland	5,598,000	5,598,000	4,797,000	5,197,000
Switzerland	5,598,000	4,400,000	5,197,000	4,797,000
Denmark	4,797,000	4,477,000	4,000,000	4,400,000
Norway and Sweden	2,799,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	4,400,000
Portugal	6,398,000	5,598,000	6,799,000	5,598,000
Total	1,373,730,000	1,450,375,000	1,542,244,000	1,501,468,000
America :—				
United States	551,802,000	455,838,000	511,818,000	495,822,000
Canada	51,980,000	47,984,000	43,984,000	53,982,000
Mexico	9,598,000	11,195,000	11,996,000	11,996,000
Argentine	58,379,000	82,371,000	59,980,000	45,982,000
Chili	15,996,000	17,994,000	13,193,000	13,594,000
Uruguay	3,400,000	6,398,000	7,996,000	9,998,000
Total	691,155,000	621,780,000	648,967,000	631,374,000
Asia :—				
India	206,323,000	267,104,000	252,710,000	255,108,000
Asia Minor	35,988,000	31,988,000	27,988,000	31,988,000
Persia	17,994,000	15,992,000	17,994,000	19,992,000
Syria	11,996,000	11,996,000	9,998,000	9,998,000
Total	272,301,000	327,080,000	308,690,000	317,086,000
Africa :—				
Algeria	19,992,000	14,795,000	19,992,000	17,994,000
Egypt	8,797,000	9,998,000	9,998,000	9,998,000
Tunis	3,757,000	3,400,000	5,998,000	5,598,000
Cape Colony	3,400,000	4,397,000	4,797,000	4,797,000
Total	35,946,000	32,590,000	40,785,000	38,387,000
Australasia :—				
New South Wales	6,817,000	6,503,000	7,041,000	5,195,000
Victoria	14,815,000	15,255,000	11,446,000	5,669,000
Queensland	463,000	413,000	545,000	124,000
South Australia	9,240,000	13,618,000	7,781,000	5,929,000
Western Australia	429,000	520,000	170,000	188,000
Tasmania	1,019,000	834,000	872,000	1,165,000
New Zealand	8,378,000	4,892,000	3,613,000	6,844,000
Total	41,161,000	42,035,000	31,468,000	25,114,000
Grand Total	2,414,293,000	2,473,860,000	2,572,154,000	2,513,429,000

the last two years it will be seen that there has been a con- falling off in the wheat-yield of the world. In 1895 the production was 41,000,000 bushels less than in the previous in 1896 the yield was very little better than in 1895. In there was the great reduction from 649,000,000 bushels in 1894 0,000 in 1895, and 542,000,000 in 1896, the falling off showing the United States and South America. In Australasia the n in 1896 was rather better than in 1895, but the effects of seasons are to be seen during the last three years. There is riation in the African yield, but there was a considerable in the Indian crop for 1896.

thstanding the abnormally high American returns, their effect world's supply is only of temporary duration. In average importing countries of Europe require a supply of about 00 bushels, which the exporting countries are not always able ; and it is an acknowledged fact that in the United States h of the population is proportionally greater than the increase own to this cereal. In Russia and in Central Europe the con- of wheat is increasing among populations that were in former isfied with grain of an inferior description, while there is ut the world a tendency to a reduction of the area under wheat n, the decrease being estimated at 5,000,000 acres. The great n the breadth of land sown to wheat during recent years in the Republic was a surprise to many; but the peasants who emigrate America from Italy and Spain should naturally be expected to their new home the only avocation which they and their fore- new in the Old World.

lasia, and in particular New South Wales, possesses immense land now devoted to sheep rearing that could be much more used for wheat cultivation, which, in these days of depression, n welcome employment to a large number of men. No doubt ern Hemisphere is destined some day to provide its share of requirements of the world. The low price of the cereal has many cases a drawback to the progress of its cultivation in th Wales, but with the advance in price which the diminished f the last two years have caused, farmers are finding sufficient nt to sow a larger area to this cereal.

PRICE OF WHEAT.

ice of wheat is subject to constant fluctuation, as the following ing the average rates ruling in the Sydney market in the months ary and March of each year since 1864, will show. These hibit clearly the tendency to a gradual reduction in the value eal, the rate for 1895 being the lowest of the series. As New ales has never grown sufficient wheat for home consumption, in Sydney is generally governed by the rates obtained in the ing Australian markets, where a surplus is produced. These,

x

raised [illegible] by the figures realized in London, wi
A[illegible] ruling in Adelaide, plus freight and charg
wu[illegible]g table are for an Imperial bushel, and, b
[illegible]ly below the average for the year :—

	January.	March.	Year.	February.
	per bushel.	per bushel.		per bushel.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.
[redacted]	7 0	7 6	1881	4 1
[redacted]	9 6	9 7½	1882	5 5
[redacted]	8 4½	8 0	1883	5 1½
[redacted]	4 3	4 4	1884	4 3
[redacted]	5 9	5 9	1885	3 10½
[redacted]	4 9	4 10	1886	4 3½
[redacted]	5 0	5 1½	1887	3 10
[redacted]	5 7½	5 9	1888	3 6
[redacted]	5 0½	5 3	1889	4 9
[redacted]	5 1	5 8½	1890	3 6
[redacted]	6 9	6 1½	1891	3 7½
[redacted]	4 7½	4 6	1892	4 9
[redacted]	5 1½	5 6	1893	3 6½
[redacted]	6 1½	6 6	1894	3 0
[redacted]	6 1½	5 7½	1895	2 5
[redacted]	5 0	4 9½	1896	4 4
[redacted]	4 8	4 9	1897	4 4½

Cost of Growing Wheat.

The cost of raising wheat depends entirely upon the size of t
[illegible]. A large farm with first-class agricultural appliances is ca
being worked at nearly half the cost of a small one, and in cas
the initial expenses of suitable machinery have been disbursed,
of production varies from 1s. to 1s. 3d. a bushel. An estimat
cost of growing wheat ought to include rent, or interest on p
money of land, and carriage to the point of consumption. For
so extensive as that over which wheat-growing is pursued in Ne
Wales, a separate estimate of these items is well nigh impossibl
is evident that they tend to a fixed quantity, for where facil
reaching market are large, and the cost inconsiderable, rent is hi
where conditions are unfavourable, rent is correspondingly low.
out of consideration rent, interest, and carriage, the cost of
wheat in New South Wales is approximately as follows :—

	s.	d.	
On large farms with first-class appliances	15	6	per ac
On moderate-sized farms with good appliances ...	20	0	„ „
On small farms	27	0	„ „

The rates given include seed, expenses incurred in the prepa
land for cropping, and in sowing and harvesting, as well as dep
in stock and appliances. The cost of bags is, however, not incl

WHEATEN HAY.

is also grown in considerable quantities for hay and dry fodder and the area cut for hay is steadily increasing, although, of is largely dependent upon the fitness of the crops to be reaped The produce, however, is still short of the requirements of y. The following statement shows the area of wheat-lands cut rith the yearly produce, during the last twenty years:—

Area.	Yield.		Year ended March 31.	Area.	Yield.	
	Total	Average per acre.			Total.	Average per acre.
acres.	tons.	tons.		acres.	tons.	tons.
29,640	29,137	0·98	1888	60,340	70,392	1·16
22,888	31,320	1·36	1889	102,838	42,041	0·41
25,281	32,943	1·30	1890	82,880	140,348	1·69
41,137	44,037	1·07	1891	83,827	96,014	1·15
39,428	42,378	1·07	1892	66,435	75,883	1·14
42,592	43,997	1·03	1893	89,396	116,061	1·30
49,348	55,119	1·12	1894	101,875	100,482	1·00
86,584	87,328	1·01	1895	125,797	136,837	1·10
105,122	74,606	0·71	1896	172,614	99,679	0·58
74,070	109,851	1·48	1897	161,136	118,337	0·73

a the foregoing figures it will be seen that the cultivation of wheat is increasing in a much greater ratio than that for grain, the cultivated in 1888-9 having been six times that cultivated for e purpose in 1877. From that year the area devoted to hay did til 1895, reach those figures, the seasons generally being so pro- that a greater proportion than in former years was allowed to o grain. That season, however, showed an increase of 23,922 aped for hay over an area similarly treated in the agricultural 93-4, and in the following year, in consequence of the drought, as a further increase of no less than 46,817 acres. A long series

of dry years may in some measure account for the increased ar
to hay; but the steady demand both for hay and chaff, wheat
as oaten, and the large import of this produce, fully justify an
of its cultivation. There still exists a considerable differenc
the demand for hay and the supply from within the colony
was in 1896 a net import of 48,473 tons of hay and chaff, p
for consumption in the Metropolitan district, but this differen
within the capacity of the colony to produce.

The total area under wheat in 1896–7, both for grain and
was 1,027,248 acres, producing 8,853,445 bushels of grain an
tons of hay, the value of both kinds of produce being £2,354,

MAIZE.

The cultivation of maize is almost as important as that of w
forms the staple industry in the valleys of the coastal rivers,
peculiarly adapted, both with regard to soil and climate, for t
of this cereal. On the table-land also its cultivation is atte
fair results, but as the land rises in elevation so does the ave
per acre proportionately decrease. Attempts have been mad
maize in the western division of the colony, but success has
with only under special conditions of natural or artificial irri
the plant demands a considerable amount of moisture, and thri
in the humid climate of the coast than anywhere else in th
Although the area under maize is much less than that und
the gross yield obtained, measured by bushels, is frequently s
that of the latter cereal, and in some seasons even greatly in ex

The area under maize-culture has increased from 57,959 ac
year 1862 to 211,382 acres in 1897, and has, therefore, nearly q
within thirty-five years. Considered in the light of the genera
of settlement, particularly in those districts where maize
successfully cultivated, there is nothing remarkable in the prog
exhibited, especially as there is no lack of land in New South
for the cultivation of this cereal. It is, nevertheless, worthy
that in the year 1888 an additional area of 24,705 acres was l
with maize for grain—a much greater increase than was show
any of the previous twenty-five years, with the exception of
1879, when 25,072 acres were added to the area under maize.
next five years the area fluctuated considerably, and in 1893
a decrease of 23,603 acres on the figures of 1891, many far
couraged by the low price realised for the cereal, putting th
other uses. The year 1894, however, experienced the notab
of 38,336 acres, or over 22 per cent. on the figures for 1893
1895 there was a further increase of 2,423 acres; in 1896 a
2,796 acres; and in 1897, one of 278 acres.

The state of maize cultivation in the colony during th
1863 to 1897 is shown in the following table. The

nd production are given in quinquennial periods, and annually 8, the agricultural year ending on the 31st March :—

r year.	Area under crop.	Production.	
		Total.	Average per acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
3–67	101,245	3,047,478	30·1
8–72	118,301	3,629,468	30·7
3–77	117,155	3,804,463	32·5
8–82	123,160	4,316,819	35·0
3–87	127,416	4,029,410	31·6
8–92	175,466	5,330,653	30·4
3–97	200,845	5,834,322	29·0
888	171,662	4,953,125	28·8
889	166,101	4,910,404	29·5
890	173,836	5,354,827	30·8
891	191,152	5,713,205	29·9
892	174,577	5,721,706	32·8
893	167,549	5,037,256	30·0
894	205,885	7,067,576	34·3
895	208,308	5,625,533	27·0
896	211,104	5,687,030	27·0
897	211,382	5,754,217	27·2
Average yield for thirty-five years			30·8

ield per acre is a somewhat variable item, ranging from a of 21·8 bushels, which was obtained in the year 1871, to a n of 38·1 in 1870, but when taken periodically, as in the fore-ble, the result is more satisfactory, the range being only from bushels per acre.

xt statement shows the distribution of the area under crop during the season 1896–7, with the total and average yield in sion :—

Division.	Area.	Production.	Average yield.
—	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
ern District	104,101	3,746,004	36·0
al ,, ...	31,899	595,121	18·6
ern ,, ...	15,665	588,129	38·8
-land—			
ern District	18,247	267,485	14·6
al ,, ...	21,804	144,537	6·6
ern ,, ...	13,816	364,151	26·3
rn Slope—			
ern District	4,777	46,797	9·8
al ,, ...	670	310	0·5
ern District and Valley of the urray	391	1,453	3·7
rn Plains	12	230	19·2
otal	211,382	5,754,217	27·2

From this table it will be seen that the North Coast is th important maize-growing district, yielding last season 65 per the total production of the colony, with an average 17·4 bush acre higher than in the Central Coast district, including the w the Hunter, the Hawkesbury, and the Nepean Rivers, and the politan county of Cumberland. In the South Coast district, the average yield per acre during the last season exceeded that North Coast by 2·8 bushels. In both the North and Sout districts maize is cultivated extensively in every county, the total yield coming from the county of Macquarie, with 889,506 and the highest average yield from the county of Aucklan 49 bushels. On the southern table-land about three-fourths production of the division is grown in the counties of Wyny Buccleuch, the rich yields of the Tumut district being the high acre of any in the colony.

The estimated yield of the world's crop of maize in 1896 w million bushels, of which quantity New South Wales produ than the five-hundredth part.

The following table, compiled for the purpose of showing the movement of the maize market of New South Wales for the years, also shows the yearly requirements for home consumption

Year.	Production.	Import.	Export.	Excess of—		Co
				Import.	Export.	
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	b
1887	4,953,125	272,104	337,204	....	65,100	4,
1888	4,910,404	152,010	342,093	....	190,083	4,
1889	5,354,827	237,660	366,063	....	128,403	5,
1890	5,713,205	563,721	30,811	532,910	....	6,
1891	5,721,706	290,786	17,626	273,160	....	5,
1892	5,037,256	324,949	19,326	305,623	....	5,
1893	7,067,576	166,841	12,270	154,571	....	7,
1894	5,625,533	58,027	11,733	46,294	....	5,
1895	5,687,030	2,489	42,296	....	39,807	5,
1896	5,754,217	111,018	62,388	48,630	....	5,

The future of this branch of agricultural industry seems limite supply of local wants, as New South Wales is adjacent to sever ducing countries which are already commencing to compete against in her own markets. Until 1890 the colony produced more than ld be locally consumed, and exported a small quantity to her southern ghbours ; but in that year, owing to a sudden increase in the demand maize, the reason for which was not apparent, the large production ld seem to have been insufficient, a net quantity of 533,000 bushels grain having been imported in the course of the twelve months. This port, though on a smaller scale, continued until 1895, when there was n a net export of the grain, the quantity being about 40,000 bushels. the gross export of 42,000 bushels, 31,000 bushels were consigned Queensland—where the production during 1895–6 fell short of the eding year's yield by nearly a quarter of a million bushels,—and 00 bushels to New Caledonia, also a maize-growing country. In 96, however, there was again a net import, amounting to nearly ,000 bushels.

As the deficiency in production had not the usual result of causing ensible increase in the prices paid to the New South Wales farmers, s a matter of some doubt whether the importations made had not their object the keeping of a stock of grain in the hands of dealers ficient to prevent a hardening of the wholesale rates. In such case deficiency in the production would seem to have been more apparent an real. However this may be, it does not seem probable that this nch of farming can be expanded with much profit to the growers, ess the local consumption should considerably increase.

Maize is not only cultivated as a grain crop, but a small area is sown green food for cattle, chiefly on dairy farms. In 1896–7, the area cultivated was 10,460 acres. The total area under maize during season was 221,842 acres.

OATS.

This cereal is cultivated as a grain crop, principally in the wheat-wing districts of the colony ; and as it is essentially a produce of cold mates, it thrives best in those parts of the country which have a winter some severity. The average yield of the colony for 1896–97 was 21·1 shels per acre—the highest yield since 1892–93. The table-land is the incipal centre of cultivation, but though the acreage under the cereal greatest in the central portion, the northern district gives the best turn. The northern tableland averaged 30·7 bushels ; the central, ·9 bushels ; and the southern, 18·3 bushels ;—these districts producing 4,531 bushels of the grain out of a total yield of 834,633 bushels. n the southern-western slope 152,524 bushels were produced, the erage yield being 19·7 bushels to the acre ; and 11,156 bushels from the orth Coast, 13,311 bushels from the Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys, d 2,598 bushels from the central western slope, practically complete e production.

The following table illustrates the state of the cultivation of oats ce 1863. The average yearly acreage and production are given in

quinquennial periods up to 1897, and annually since 1890—t
tural year ending March 31 :—

Period.	Area.	Production.		Year.	Area.	Pr
		Total.	Average per acre.			Total.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.		acres.	bushel
1863–67	12,592	204,979	16·3	1890	22,358	543,3
1868–72	13,410	224,534	16·7	1891	14,102	256,6
1873–77	17,753	340,286	19·1	1892	12,958	276,2
1878–82	19,772	407,277	20·6	1893	20,890	466,6
1883–87	20,032	460,003	22·9	1894	34,148	701,8
1888–92	15,359	316,188	20·4	1895	30,636	562,7
1893–97	29,791	587,992	19·7	1896	23,750	374,1
				1897	39,530	834,6

The cultivation of oats for grain has been very irregularl
during the period embraced by this table, rising rapidly d
earlier years and remaining practically stationary from 1878 t
when over 13,000 acres were added to the area under crop c
preceding year. In 1896 the area cut for grain was 10,
smaller than in 1894, but this was due to the failure of
caused by the absence of rain, the area cropped for hay bei
acres above the corresponding figure two years before. Thi
was more than made up in 1897, when the area cut for gra
less than 39,530 acres. The market for oats is chiefly in t
politan district, and the demand depends largely upon the price

The average yield of oats during the period 1863–97 was 19
per acre, the minimum obtained in any year being 10·6 busl
season 1865-6, and the maximum, 25·1 bushels in that of 188
pared with the other continental colonies, New South Wales
regard to average yield, the second rank, Victoria coming
the oat yield of each of these colonies is surpassed by that of
and of New Zealand. The climate of the two colonies last
is much better adapted for the successful cultivation of t
the average yield per acre in New Zealand in particu
little below that of the United Kingdom, and on a par with
of the other oat-producing countries of the Old World. Th
annual yield of oats throughout the globe for the last fiv
estimated at 2,293 million bushels, the production for 1896
down at 2,286 million bushels.

following table figures will be found giving the average produce in the Australasian colonies during the season 1896–7, and a average, together with the maximum and minimum yields, ne last ten years :—

Colony.	Average. 1896–7.	Yield per acre during ten years 1888–97.		
		Average.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
h Wales	21·1	20·0	24·3 (1890)	13·8 (1889)
	16·3	19·8	25·8 (1893)	14·2 (1889)
d	17·1	18·1	24·3 (1888)	5·6 (1889)
tralia	4·7	9·2	12·8 (1890)	4·7 (1897)
Australia	10·8	16·4	23·4 (1889)	10·3 (1896)
	21·7	26·0	30·9 (1892)	18·2 (1888)
and	30·1	31·2	34·0 (1892)	28·7 (1891)

ultivation of oats as a staple agricultural crop has been much d in New South Wales, though the return has not been unsatis- It is possible that in the near future this grain will receive attention, especially as the deficiency between the production consumption is very considerable. The elevated districts of Argyle, Bathurst, and New England, in preference to other the colony, contain vast areas of land where the cultivation of ld be carried on with remunerative results.

e production is far from satisfying the wants of the colony, the tion is large, 988,880 bushels, of the estimated value of £105,956, nported during the year 1896. New Zealand is the principal of supply, the quantity obtained from that province being bushels. Much yet remains to be done before the colony can endent of outside assistance in regard to the supply of oats, as the ten years ended 1896 the average quantity produced was 9 per cent. of the amount consumed, and there was an ample for the produce of 63,530 acres more than the average area

nnection with this subject it may not be generally known relative nourishment of oats exceeds that of either maize or weight for weight. If 100 be taken as the value of oats for fattening purposes, the respective values of equal weights of th are :—

Oats	100
Wheat	70
Maize	62

And for equal measures :—

Oats	100
Wheat	121
Maize	107

In parts of the colony where the climate is not suitable for the grain, a large area is sown for hay. The average area cut purpose during the five years 1877–81 was 70,973 acres, which to 104,977 acres in the next quinquennium. In 1887 the at 126,488 acres, but from that time it fluctuated consider never approached the same figure until 1896, when the acreage hay was 120,857, the dry weather preventing the maturity of th for grain. In 1897 there was a further increase to 133,946 acre the area cut for grain also showed a satisfactory advance. Oat is in much demand, and sells readily at remunerative prices; there is less expense and lighter labour attached to this form vation, the system of growing for hay is more in favour with the than the cultivation of the grain. The areas under the two cro to each other in the following relation in the year 1896–7 :—

	Acres.
Area under oats for grain	39,530
Area under oats for hay	133,946
Total	173,476

The area harvested for grain was only 22·2 per cent. of the to sown with oats. The following statement shows the average area under and the production of oaten hay, for the quinquennial 1877–81 and 1882–6, and the actual area and production for the last eleven years :—

Period or Year ended March.	Area.	Production.	
		Total.	Per acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1877–81	70,973	84,885	1·2
1882–86	104,977	115,525	1·1
1887	126,488	182,921	1·4
1888	86,451	96,126	1·1
1889	85,439	40,753	0·5
1890	103,129	156,920	1·5
1891	70,463	71,305	1·0
1892	76,589	86,077	1·1
1893	101,981	132,426	1·3
1894	82,750	94,128	1·1
1895	96,856	95,517	1·0
1896	120,857	79,635	0·7
1897	133,946	142,957	1·1

dition to the area cultivated for grain and hay, a small extent of yearly sown for green oaten fodder. Last season 5,451 acres of s were so used. The total area under oats during the year ended arch, 1897, was therefore 178,927 acres—an increase of 29,618 er the area of the previous season.

MINOR GRAIN CROPS.

minor grain crops harvested are barley, rye, millet, and sorghum. an be said on this subject except that, as in the case of other the suitability of the soil for their production is an established There is, however, so little demand for these kinds of grain that ltivation in the colony is very limited.

896–7 barley was sown on 10,684 acres, of which 6,453 acres r grain, with a production of 110,340 bushels; 1,615 acres were , with a yield of 2,141 tons; and 2,616 acres were for green The world's estimated annual average yield of barley is stated prise 802 million bushels.

area under rye for grain in 1896–7 covered 1,487 acres, the produce hich was 22,000 bushels, or at the rate of 14·8 bushels to the There were also 625 acres of rye sown for green food. The world's ed annual average yield of rye is stated to comprise 1,317 million t.

t was only cultivated over an area of 2,686 acres, 621 acres of were harvested for grain, the remaining 2,065 acres being sown for food for cattle. The greater part of the crop of millet was d in the Hunter River Valley. The average production of the amounted to 12·3 bushels per acre.

cultivation of sorghum for grain appears to have been abandoned, area sown in 1896–7 for green fodder for cattle extended over acres, chiefly within the dairy-farming districts of the South Coast. eater number of minor grain crops than those specified above ltivated in the colony, but, owing to the small area tilled, were cified in the agricultural returns.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF GRAIN.

mean population of New South Wales during the decade ex- g from 1887 to 1896 was 1,153,422; the average annual production n of all kinds was 11,117,383 bushels; and the annual consump- as 14,912,115 bushels. There was, therefore, an average annual ncy of all kinds of grain during the decade of 3,794,732 bushels. erage annual production per head of all kinds of grain in the was 9·6 bushels, and the consumption per head, inclusive of seed 12·9 bushels, leaving a deficiency per head of 3·3 bushels, which be made good by importation. The following table exhibits the

total production of the grain crops grown in the colony for th
under notice :—

Year ended 31st March.	Production of Grain.				
	Wheat.	Maize	Barley.	Oats.	Rye
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1887	5,868,844	3,825,146	132,949	600,892	17,784
1888	4,695,849	4,953,125	84,533	394,762	19,167
1889	1,450,503	4,910,404	36,760	109,931	5,982
1890	6,570,335	5,354,827	113,109	543,330	18,239
1891	3,649,216	5,713,205	81,383	256,659	9,129
1892	3,963,668	5,721,706	93,446	276,259	11,390
1893	6,817,457	5,037,256	91,701	466,603	20,356
1894	6,502,715	7,067,576	114,272	701,803	19,522
1895	7,041,378	5,625,533	179,348	562,725	13,315
1896	5,195,312	5,687,030	96,119	374,196	8,078
Total for 10 years	51,755,277	53,895,808	1,023,620	4,287,160	142,962

The deficiency in the production of wheat, calculated on the
the past ten years, amounts to 32·8 per cent.; in that of barle
per cent.; in that of oats, 72·2 per cent.; and in that of ma
per cent. The total deficiency in all the principal grain crops
the decennial period was 25·4 per cent. There is no apparent
why the local production of grain should not equal the deman
the contrary, the resources of the colony are such that under
conditions the supply should largely exceed the requirements, a
increasing excess of production become yearly available for expor

The table given hereunder shows the excess of imports over e
of grain during the decennium. Rye and millet have been omitte
the table, as neither of these grains is used in the colony to any e
and there has been scarcely any export or import :—

Year ended 31st March.	Net Imports of Grain.			
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1887	2,502,960	*65,100	31,754	1,393,949
1888	3,722,806	*190,083	68,410	1,067,204
1889	5,080,438	*128,403	103,153	882,479
1890	1,867,381	532,910	45,862	1,459,173
1891	3,140,687	273,160	60,031	1,439,334
1892	3,203,704	305,623	48,641	1,324,276
1893	1,708,523	154,571	58,626	1,270,091
1894	1,824,575	46,294	34,223	686,275
1895	357,273	*39,807	5,140	787,477
1896	1,913,923	48,630	44,414	877,313
Total for 10 years	25,322,270	937,795	500,254	11,187,571

* Net exports.

The total production, added to the total excess of imports over exports ll give the consumption, inclusive of seed grains, as shown in the bjoined table:—

Year ended 31st March.	Consumption of Grain.					
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Millet.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1887	8,371,804	3,760,046	164,703	1,994,841	17,784	4,749
1888	8,418,655	4,763,042	152,943	1,461,966	18,984	4,869
1889	6,530,941	4,782,001	139,913	992,410	5,454	6,917
1890	8,437,716	5,887,737	158,971	2,002,503	18,198	9,818
1891	6,789,903	5,986,365	141,414	1,695,993	9,129	2,417
1892	7,167,372	6,027,329	142,087	1,600,535	11,390	5,079
1893	8,525,980	5,191,827	150,327	1,736,694	20,356	3,732
1894	8,327,290	7,113,870	148,495	1,388,078	19,522	9,244
1895	7,398,651	5,585,526	184,488	1,350,202	13,315	12,460
1896	7,109,235	5,735,660	140,533	1,251,509	8,458	9,725
al for 10 years	77,077,547	54,833,403	1,523,874	15,474,731	142,590	69,010

The experience of past years distinctly shows that New South Wales on the whole, better favoured as regards soil, climate, and other tural conditions than any other continental Australian province; d, consequently, the average yield per acre of wheat, maize, and ley is greater in the parent colony than in any of the remaining r, Victoria not excepted. Extending the field of comparison, the duction of cereals is found to reach an average which places New th Wales on a level with countries usually considered as rich agriltural States. It is better than the average yield of the United es, Italy, and Hungary; and, in some respects, almost on a level h that of Germany, Austria, and France. The area adapted for al-growing is very considerable, and with a better knowledge of the bilities of the various kinds of soil, and well-devised means of r-storage, there should be practically no limit to the production of n.

STANDARD BUSHELS OF THE VARIOUS GRAINS.

The weight of a bushel of wheat varies from 57½ to 63 lb., a
to grade; but the standards, as enforced by an Act of Par
assented to on the 10th February, 1880, for this and for oth
of grain, are as follow:—

Wheat	60 lb.	to the	bushel.
Maize	56	„	„
Barley—Cape	50	„	„
„ English	52	„	„
Oats	40	„	„
Rye	60	„	„
Peas	60	„	„
Beans	60	„	„

Tests, for milling purposes, of average samples of wheat from
districts of the colony, give an average weight of 66½ lb. to th

SOWN GRASSES, AS FOOD FOR CATTLE.

The area sown with green food and grasses for cattle is in
in the colony, and during the year 1896–7 there we
artificial grasses 384,016 acres (including 50,787 acres of
lands) or 83,154 acres more than in 1895–6. Lucerne is g
considerable quantities on the Hunter River flats, and the cu
of this fodder is extending throughout the country, principal
the banks of the rivers on the western slope of the Great Divi
total acreage under lucerne in 1896–7 was returned at 30,512 a
for hay, producing 71,467 tons of fodder. In addition to this, th
37,357 acres of lucerne and grasses sown for green fodder for c

Permanent grasses are laid down principally in the north a
coast districts, 152,529 acres being thus cultivated in th
division alone; while in the division of the north coast the
105,958 acres under grass, of which 81,413 acres were laid dow
most northern county of Rous. There is also a considerable ar
artificially-sown grasses for dairying purposes on the souther
land, and to a less extent on the northern and central table-l
also in the counties of Denison and Hume on the south
slope; but in the other divisions of the colony the area is sm
cultivated by holders principally for their own use. It is
portions where dairy-farming is principally carried on that the
of laying down permanent grasses is most general.

The increasing demand for dairy produce, which is now
extent being exported to the United Kingdom, has had a con
influence upon the extension of the area under artificial pastur
following table shows the progress made in this branch of
during the last ten years, the area having increased from 192,
in 1887-8 to 384,016 acres in 1896-7, while in 1891 it stood at
acres. The areas under these artificial pastures are also give

rth and south coast districts, where the dairying industry is most urishing :—

ear nded 1st rch.	Area under Artificial Grasses.			Year ended 31st March.	Area under Artificial Grasses.		
	New South Wales.	North Coast District.	South Coast District.		New South Wales.	North Coast District.	South Coast District.
	acres.	acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.	acres.
888	192,678	30,621	146,854	1893	361,280	83,820	182,025
889	200,332	31,520	155,197	1894	302,412	87,681	156,408
890	217,403	39,950	166,057	1895	362,578	82,078	175,184
891	388,715	86,592	172,251	1896	300,862	84,982	150,761
892	333,238	99,203	148,434	1897	384,016	105,958	152,529

NATURAL GRASSES AND RING-BARKING.

The area ring-barked and partially cleared for the preservation of the tural grasses as food for stock was recorded in 1896–7 at 25,986,208 es, 11,436,271 acres being on the western slope, 9,364,639 acres on e table-land, 2,231,240 acres in the coast districts, and 2,954,058 acres n the western plains. By far the largest area ring-barked was in the toral divisions, for grazing purposes for sheep, although farmers o, to some extent, resort to this method of increasing the food supply r their inferior stock, and even for cows in milking, supplementing e natural grasses with lucerne, sorghum, and other green foods.

POTATOES.

The cultivation of the potato has progressed very slowly, although e seasons 1894 and 1895 showed a marked increase in the industry. e area planted for the season ended 31st March, 1895, viz., 30,089 es, was the largest ever recorded, and the total yield of 85,270 tons s highest in the history of the cultivation of the tuber in the colony p to that time. The average yield per acre was, however, only 2·83 s; in the preceding year it was 3·16 tons—a return which had not n reached since the year 1880. In 1896, however, in consequence the dry weather, the area declined to 24,722 acres, and the produc- n to 56,179 tons—the average yield being only 2·27 tons; but the lowing season was more propitious, and an area was planted exceed- even that of 1895, the total yield reaching 84,214 tons from 31,170 s, giving an average of 2·7 tons per acre. At present New South les has to make up by importation from the other colonies a con- rable deficiency, which amounted in 1896 to 39,406 tons net, or ut 32 per cent. of the total consumption for the year.

The following table illustrates the state of the cultivation for the quinquennial periods and years given :—

Period or year ended 31st March.	Area.	Production.	Average yield
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1866-70	16,597	38,737	2·33
1871-75	14,327	40,967	2·86
1876-80	15,567	46,983	3·02
1881-85	15,374	41,642	2·71
1886-90	17,274	46,578	2·70
1891-95	23,423	67,257	2·87
1891	19,406	52,791	2·72
1892	22,560	62,283	2·76
1893	18,502	52,105	2·81
1894	26,559	83,838	3·16
1895	30,089	85,270	2·83
1896	24,722	56,179	2·27
1897	31,170	84,214	2·70

The centres of potato cultivation are the counties of Bath cipally in the Orange and Carcoar districts), Argyle, King Camden, Clarence, and Durham, and, to a less extent, the othe of the coast and table-land districts. On the western slope crop has hardly any representation at all. Its cultivation is capable of very wide distribution throughout the colony; but places formerly well known for its production it has been l placed by maize and other cereals.

TOBACCO.

Both the soil and climate of New South Wales are well fitt growth of the tobacco-plant, but as it demands for its proper c special knowledge on the part of the grower, it is not so lar vated as it otherwise might be. The Government of the endeavouring to remedy this state of affairs, and have en services of an expert to assist the growers in the culture of In the year ended 31st March, 1864, the first shown in the s table, there were only 534 acres under cultivation, producing of leaf tobacco. In the following years the area under the pla increased, chiefly in the agricultural districts of Argyle and tl River valley. Since then the growth of tobacco seems to almost entirely abandoned in the districts where it was first a but it has spread to other parts of the colony, the counties of Bathurst, Roxburgh, Parry, Westmoreland, and Buccleuch, l the principal centres of production. The greater portic tobacco grown in 1896-7 was obtained in these districts, but vation is chiefly in the hands of Chinese, few European agr apparently possessing the knowledge required for the proper c ration of the leaf. According to the latest returns tobacco is on 416 holdings. The Census taken on the 5th April, 1891, he total number of persons employed in the culture of tobacco d of these, 379, or 98 per cent., were Chinese. This fact shows great extent the practice of growing and curing the leaf of o-plant has been abandoned to these aliens.

n the years 1881 and 1889 the area devoted to the cultivation was enlarged from 1,791 to 4,833 acres, with a correspondse in the yield of leaf. As, however, the local product did not favourably with the American leaf, it could not be exported ; so that a large proportion of the crop remained upon the fards, the quantity sold realised very unsatisfactory figures, and owers consequently abandoned the cultivation of tobacco in other crops. With the accumulation of stocks of leaf, and the he price of the local product, the area under the plant and the yield declined rapidly, and in 1893 the acreage was only 848, production 8,344 cwt. A better crop in the following season effect of increasing the production by 2,514 cwt., although only more had been placed under cultivation. In 1895 both the l the total yield were less than in any year since 1880 ; but in e area increased to 1,231 acres, and in 1897 to 2,744 acres—the since 1890. The crop in 1896 suffered from the adverse season, e production was barely up to that of 1894, when nearly 400 s were under cultivation ; but in 1897 it reached 27,468 cwt., pared with 10,548 cwt. in the preceding year.

following table shows the progress of the industry during the irty-four years :—

Area.	Production.		Year ended March 31.	Area.	Production.	
	Total.	Average per acre.			Total.	Average per acre.
acres.	cwt.	cwt.		acres.	cwt.	cwt.
534	4,851	9·1	1881	1,791	19,469	10·9
807	4,036	5·0	1882	1,625	18,311	11·2
1,499	7,469	5·1	1883	1,815	17,540	9·7
1,326	2,478	1·9	1884	1,785	20,006	11·2
627	6,035	9·1	1885	1,046	9,914	9·5
875	7,925	9·1	1886	1,603	22,947	14·3
366	3,192	8·7	1887	1,203	13,642	11·3
225	700	3·1	1888	2,371	23,465	9·9
567	4,475	7·9	1889	4,833	55,478	11·5
440	2,751	6·2	1890	3,239	27,724	8·6
199	1,261	6·3	1891	1,148	14,021	12·2
539	6,069	11·3	1892	886	9,314	10·5
491	4,098	8·3	1893	848	8,344	9·8
333	2,440	7·3	1894	854	10,858	12·7
399	3,049	7·6	1895	716	8,132	11·4
835	7,932	9·5	1896	1,231	10,548	8·6
592	6,221	10·5	1897	2,744	27,468	10·0

During the year 1896 there was a total consumption of manu
tobacco and cigars of 3,221,959 lb. weight, of which 2,043,689
made in the colony from 693,913 lb. of American leaf and 1,34
of leaf locally grown. The production of leaf for 1897 was
lent to 3,076,416 lb., from which a third may be deducted for
and waste, and the quantity left, viz., 2,050,944 lb., will probal
than suffice for the requirements of the home manufacturers.

The Department of Agriculture has of recent years taken
revive the interest of agriculturists in the industry, and lately a
expert has been brought from America by the Government, v
object of instructing growers in the cultivation of the plant. In
the fact that few countries are better favoured than New Sout
with climate and soil necessary for successful cultivation, it is c
a matter for regret that the industry has not made more sati
progress. The difficulty, however, is not so much with the pro
with the market. The local consumption could be rapidly ov
and the surplus production would then have to be placed on the
or foreign markets, where it would enter into competition with
having a well-established reputation, and a flavour for which cc
use on the part of the consumer has created a taste and a pred

SUGAR-CANE.

The first returns in which mention is made of the cultivatio
sugar-cane and the production of sugar in New South Wa
only from 1863-4. In that agricultural year two acres were rec
having produced 280 lb. of sugar, and it will appear strange tha
this quantity 220 lb. were stated to be the produce of one acre
grown in the northern part of the county of Bathurst, while the
ing 60 lb. were produced on the banks of the Macleay Rive
district last mentioned may be considered as the principal sea
industry during its earlier stages; but it proved to be unsuitabl
growth of the cane, and the risk of failure from frosts compe
planters to keep more to the north. In a few years the richest
of the lower valleys of the Clarence, the Richmond, the Tweed,
Brunswick were occupied by settlers engaged in planting and
the cane. Mills were erected in the chief centres of cane-cult
and cane-growing and sugar-manufacturing are now the prine
best established industries of the north-eastern portions of the c

Although frosts are not altogether unknown even on the Tw
soil and climate of the valleys of the northern rivers are in most
well adapted to the successful cultivation of the sugar-cane, a
confined principally to the valleys of the Richmond, Twe
Clarence Rivers, and nearly the whole of the area under this
within the counties of Rous, Clarence, and Richmond.

The following table shows the progress of this industry du
last twenty one years. The figures relating to the area yearl

are given for earlier dates, but the number of tons pro-
ot be ascertained prior to 1877. As sugar-cane is not an
p, the area under cultivation has been divided, as far as
, into productive and non-productive, the former representing
r of acres upon which cane was cut during the season, and
the area over which it was unfit for the mill, or allowed to
nother year:—

Area.			Production of Cane.	
Productive.	Non-productive.	Total.	Total.	Average per acre.
acres.	acres.	acres.	tons.	tons.
....	....	2	....	....
....	....	22	....	....
....	....	141	....	....
....	....	116	....	....
....	....	647	....	....
....	....	2,584	....	....
....	....	3,917	....	....
1,475	2,607	4,082	....	....
1,995	2,399	4,394	....	....
3,470	2,001	5,471	....	....
3,565	3,105	6,670	....	....
4,087	4,453	8,540	....	....
3,654	2,800	6,454	....	....
3,524	3,231	6,755	99,430	28·2
3,331	3,735	7,066	99,978	30·1
2,949	4,489	7,438	104,192	35·3
3,675	4,102	7,777	126,119	34·5
4,465	6,506	10,971	121,616	27·2
4,983	7,184	12,167	128,752	25·8
6,362	7,176	13,538	169,192	26·6
7,583	7,401	14,984	204,547	26·9
6,997	10,520	17,517	105,323	15·1
9,583	6,835	16,418	239,347	25·0
5,915	9,202	15,117	167,959	28·4
8,380	6,907	15,287	273,928	32·7
4,997	10,284	15,281	110,218	22·1
7,348	11,382	18,730	168,862	23·0
8,344	12,102	20,446	277,252	33·2
8,623	13,639	22,262	185,258	21·5
11,560	15,191	26,751	264,832	22·9
11,755	16,357	28,112	252,606	21·5
14,204	18,705	32,909	264,254	18·6
14,398	18,529	32,927	207,771	14·4
18,194	12,859	31,053	320,276	17·6

The figures contained in the above table show the gradual pro
the sugar-growing industry from the small beginnings of 1864.
the starting point of this cultivation there was but one single bre
of 1876), in the yearly increase of land put under cane unti
During the four succeeding years there was, however, a ret
tendency, and the area cultivated in 1889 was less by 2,236 a
12·7 per cent., than that cultivated in 1885. In 1890 the
an increase in the area under cane of 1,213 acres over the area si
cultivated in 1885, the year for which, up to that time, the
acreage had been recorded. This increase in the area planted h
proportionately maintained during the following years, th
under sugar-cultivation in 1897 being given as 31,053 acres. T
price of the staple and the disturbed state of the markets of th
a few years ago, forced the sugar-manufacturers to correspo
reduce the price offered for the cane, and so caused for a ti
abandonment of this cultivation by the small farmers, who fo
the growth of maize less variable results for their labour. The
1896-7 gave a yield of 320,276 tons of cane, but the average pro
per acre was only 17·6 tons—with the exception of that of 1895
lowest yield recorded. The cane disease which has been pre
principally on the Clarence, accounts for the low average for t
five years, while in 1895-6 the crop was also damaged by frost.

Sugar-cane is generally cut in the second year of its grow
fields being replanted after they have given crops for three c
seasons at the most; and, as the planting of cane has been con
at irregular intervals, it has chanced that seasons of large pro
have been followed by small crops in the succeeding year. This ac
for the alternately large and small areas of productive cane
many years, as shown in the preceding table. Sugar-manufa
invariably purchase the year's crop of cane standing and cut it a
own cost. From plantations in full bearing the average weight
cane cut varies from 25 to 32 tons, while the price paid ranges fr
to 13s. per ton. For the season 1897 the leading buyer has fi
price for the standing two-year old cane at 10s. 3d. per ton.
considerably lower than in previous seasons, not by reason of any
in the standard prices, but through a large proportion of th
having been seriously damaged by frost, and purchased at th
value, as determined by analysis. The average cost of cutting th
may be set down at 3s. 2d. per ton.

The county of Rous is now the principal centre of sugar-cane
vation, containing 891 holdings, covering 18,488 acres, devoted
production of sugar—an area comprising over three-fifths of th
acreage in the colony under cane crops. The yield obtained from
acres of productive cane amounted to 206,419 tons, showing an a
of 19·1 tons per acre. In the county of Clarence there were, in 1
597 holdings on which cane was grown, the aggregate area bein
acres. In this, as in the other sugar-growing counties, the n

armers cultivate sugar-cane in addition to other crops, and only
tates are entirely devoted to its production. Some planters have
f 25 to 100 acres in extent under cane, but their number is
The yield in the county of Clarence was 82,547 tons, or an
of 14·6 tons per acre, cut on an area of 5,646 acres. In the
of Richmond the holdings under sugar-cane numbered 194, and
ted 3,109 acres, of which 1,655 acres were cut, giving a total
f 30,390 tons of cane, or an average of 18·4 tons to the acre.
ere in the county of Fitzroy only 2 holdings under sugar-cane,
total area of 61 acres, of which 41 were productive, giving a
f 407 tons, or an average production of 9·9 tons to the acre.
nty of Raleigh contained 11 holdings on which sugar-cane was
ed, comprising an area of 42 acres, of which 12 were pro-
giving a total production of 313 tons, or an average of 26·1
the acre. In the southern coastal county of Camden there
holdings, aggregating 17 acres, of which 6 were productive,
total production of 11 tons, or an average of 1·9 tons to the
n the whole of the remaining portion of the colony there were
e under cultivation. The total number of holdings on which
ne was cultivated was 1,733.

otal consumption of sugar in New South Wales during the year
nounted to 60,724 tons, of which 25,458 tons were the product
ocal plantations. The quantity treated by the refineries of the
including imports, during the twelve months was 43,300 tons.
ld of sugar per ton of cane varies, of course, according to the
y of the juice, but in ordinary seasons it may be set down at
at over 9 per cent. of the quantity treated.

he estates belonging to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company,
duct of the business has been entrusted to practical men, and no
has been spared to obtain the most approved and complete plant
manufacture of sugar. This Company's works on the Richmond
re among the most complete in any part of the world, and the
manufactured is equal to the best Mauritius and West Indian
.

MINOR ROOT CROPS.

ng the minor root crops may be mentioned turnips, mangold-
onions, arrowroot, chicory, and beetroot. According to the
ural returns collected during the season 1896–7, there were
d in New South Wales £17,519 worth of miscellaneous crops,
ed on 1,352 acres; and among these were some small areas,
insignificant in their independent acreage, upon which were
small yields of almost every agricultural product mentioned in
pter.

nost important of the minor root crops is that of turnips, which
total production of 1,642 tons from 345 acres. Onions, properly

speaking a bulb crop, were recorded as having been grown on and the yield was 535 tons. Mangold-wurzel gave from 72 tons. A little arrowroot is grown in the northern coastal dis a little chicory in the central division of the table-land.

The sugar-beet, the cultivation of which in France and Ger reached enormous proportions and has become a staple industr attracting a good deal of attention both in New South Wal Victoria. In Victoria the Department of Agriculture has lat some careful analyses of different varieties of locally-grown be the most satisfactory results. A good beet should show not 12·5 per cent. of sugar, but those tested by the Departmen 14·16, 14·87, 15·25, and 15·61 per cent. respectively. The Go of the colony have passed an Act under which the Tre empowered to advance money on easy terms for the purpose of ing mills for the production of sugar from beets. The resul tests made in Victoria have, however, been greatly exceeded furnished by analyses of beets grown in the Tenterfield d New South Wales. The chemist of the Colonial Sugar Company, at the request of a local beet-grower, made a series the yield per root from those analysed being respectively 15· 17·89, 19·51, 19·90, 20·13, 20·33, 20·56, 22·11, 22·22, and cent. Experts pronounce such yields to be unparalleled in the the cultivation of the beet; and there is, in consequence, a mov favour of testing this branch of agriculture in those districts to the growth of the cane, special attention being directed to th in the Tenterfield district, where the project has taken practic Should the cultivation of the beet for sugar production fulfil the expectations of its promoters, there is little doubt tha greatly modify agriculture in the colony, and add another staple to the country's resources.

LENTIL CROPS.

There were, during the season 1896-7, under crop to peas a 207 acres, which gave a total yield of 4,410 bushels. Th division of the colony contained 124 acres devoted to this the yield was recorded as 2,944 bushels. The northern coas yielded 399 bushels from 26 acres; the valleys of the Hunte Hawkesbury Rivers, 1,109 bushels from 34 acres; the met county of Cumberland, 652 bushels from 21 acres; and the coast district, 784 bushels from 43 acres. The area under thi the table-land was 70 acres, and the yield 1,302 bushels; the northern district contributed 208 bushels from 21 acres; th 738 bushels from 20 acres; and the southern, 356 bushels acres. The western slope had under this crop only 11 acres, 154 bushels; while the western plains had 2 acres, yielding 1 and beans herein described were grown mainly as hard orses, and must not be confounded with the peas and beans a the kitchen and market gardens for table use as vege- ls are gathered when perfectly dry, and constitute in that nt fattening food for pigs being prepared for the knife. on to the green peas grown on market gardens, which are market garden produce, 314 acres were cropped on farms, al yield of 8,830 bushels.

GOURD CROPS.

devoted to pumpkins and melons during the season 1896-7 acres, and the yield 17,940 tons. The principal places of are the maize districts and the metropolitan county. In the trict the area was 2,998 acres, and the production 10,769 ich the valleys of the Hawkesbury and Hunter Rivers gave from an area of 1,394 acres; the northern counties, 2,191 566 acres; and the county of Cumberland, 2,536 tons from The area under gourd crops on the table-land was 1,679 which 6,254 tons were produced; and on the western slope 312 acres which yielded 828 tons. On the western plains a small area of 28 acres under this form of cultivation, and e obtained from it weighed 89 tons.

ns and melons are grown principally for table use as vege- as a jam staple; but they are also used extensively as fodder and pigs. The number of acres under gourd-vines mentioned mewhat below the truth, as there was no doubt a large area ion which was never returned, it being the custom to plant nd melon seeds in orchards and vineyards between the rows es and vines.

MARKET-GARDENS.

-7 there were in the colony 2,125 holdings, comprising 6,824 ivated as market-gardens, the average size of each garden cres. The value of the production for the year was set 168,353, and the number of persons employed in this branch tion was probably about 7,000, the greater number being indeed, the market-garden in Australia is seldom termed generic appellation being "Chinese" garden. At the Census 891 there were returned as following the calling of market- 5,101 persons, of which number 3,841, or 75·3 per cent., ese; of 3,131 domestic and other gardeners, 405, or 12·9 per 542 vegetable hawkers, 403, or 74·4 per cent.; and of 309 rs 144, or 46·6 per cent., were of the same race. This is mphatic enough, if such were needed, as to the monopoly inese of the occupation of market gardening and vegetable in New South Wales.

The subjoined statement exhibits the number, area, and value duction of market gardens in each of the great divisions int the colony has been divided :—

Division of the Colony.	Market-gardens.	Area.
	No.	Acres.
The Coast—		
Northern District	205	365
Valleys of the Hunter and Hawkesbury Rivers.	334	771
County of Cumberland and the Metropolis.	843	3,275
Southern District	128	311
Total	1,510	4,722
The Table-land—		
Northern District	121	256
Central ,,	179	857
Southern ,,	147	484
Total	447	1,597
The Western Slope—		
Northern District	50	168
Central ,,	18	63
Southern ,,	49	152
Total	117	383
The Western Plains	51	122
Grand Total	2,125	6,824

One branch of gardening, namely tomato-culture, has not that attention which its importance demands. The

. trade, together with an export trade of very considerable ›, have not yet awakened horticulturists to a sense of the e of this valuable vegetable. There is an active and continuising demand for sauces, jams, and preserves of tomato, and n supply is by no means so good or so cheap as to render n difficult. In the future, perhaps, areas of many acres in l be planted with tomato-vines, as they now are with grapenumbers of people will be employed in the manufacture of uce, and in canning the fruit. Both climate and soil are , and tomatoes grown in New South Wales compare to with those produced in their native habitat.

VINES AND WINE PRODUCTION.

st every part of the colony, with the exception of the subrtion and the higher parts of the mountain ranges, grapee well, and bear large crops of succulent fruit, equal in size, ;, and flavour to the most renowned products of France, the s of Germany, and Spain. Nevertheless, the vine-growing nanufacturing industries are still in their infancy, though owing local demand, and the opening up of a market in where the wines of New South Wales, in common with those er Australian colonies, have obtained some appreciation, the grape culture in this country appears to be fairly assured. t, however, the production of the whole of Australia is rely insignificant, as will appear from the following table, ie vintage of the world for 1895 :—

untry.	Production in million gallons.	Country.	Production in million gallons.
	587	Bulgaria	26
	469	United States	19
	379	Servia	18
	83	Russia	16
	80	Brazil	8
	69	Azores, Canaries, and Madeira	5
	66		
	63	Tunis	4
. Cyprus	53	Cape Colony	2
	44	Mexico	2
	35	Persia	1
	33	Australia	4
Republic	30		
l	27	Total	2,123

e was planted in the early days of colonisation in New South at it was not until the year 1828 that vine-growing and wine-making may be said to have been fairly established. In t Mr. Busby returned from Europe with a large collection of cutti the most celebrated vineyards of France, Spain, the Valley of th and other parts of the Continent of Europe; and planted on h at Kirkton, in the Hunter River district, a vineyard, which l the nursery of the principal vineyards of the colony. Son afterwards the vine was planted in the Murray River Valle other districts, and was found to flourish so luxuriantly t manufacture of wine received considerable attention. For a ti ever, the prospects of this industry seemed very discouraging, production was considerably diminished, owing partly to the w market, and partly to the fact that the wine-makers, many were not vignerons by training, possessed only a limited kno the manufacture of wine, and produced at first an article of inf unsaleable quality. In the principal vineyards in the Valley Murray and Hunter Rivers, however, neither pains nor money spared to introduce skilled labour, and to put up presses, vats, a manufacturing appliances of the most approved kinds.

The results of such intelligent treatment became apparent wh were awarded to the wines of New South Wales at the Paris E of 1878, followed by an unbroken series of successes at the Ex of Philadelphia, Sydney, Melbourne, and Amsterdam; and st recently at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London. But was the general excellence of the wines of the colony mc recognised than at the Bordeaux Exhibition of 1882. Ther principal centre of the wine trade of the world, some of the New South Wales were classed, by the most competent judge category of *Grands Vins*, and their value fully apprecia established. Again, at the World's Fair, held in 1893, at an international jury of experts pronounced the wines of Ne Wales to be equal to many of the finest viticultural production noted wine-growing countries of Southern Europe. The opi expressed, however, that the practice of labelling Australian w European names was to be deprecated, as they possessed many and distinctive characteristics, sufficiently peculiar to justify t tion of a new and descriptive system of classification.

Notwithstanding the winning of exhibition medals anc approval, the export of the wines of the colony has not yet an important figure, although the prospects of the trade to be improving. Among other causes which retard the accep Australian wines by English markets, may be mentioned the of shipping the product at too early an age, and the imp of obtaining from the shippers details respecting the vintag particular wine. It is, moreover, alleged that when certain s of wine arrived in England they were often so badly loo as to be actually unsound before being shown to the wine r Foreign experts find fault also with the method of casking, a eliminary treatment of wine in Australia, as it is treated with cool cellarage, fining, racking, and blending, for d a half to three years prior to leaving the country. No of the success of New South Wales as a wine-exporting depend on the adoption of more advanced methods, the l employment of European experts in wine-making, and e of the vignerons in properly advertising their productions g them sufficiently before the notice of the British public. imports of all Australian wines into the United Kingdom, by the Board of Trade returns for ten years, were as fol-

	Gallons.	Year.	Gallons.
	168,000	1892	461,000
	233,000	1893	555,000
	307,000	1894	399,000
	314,000	1895	613,000
	382,000	1896	610,560

ilities of the wine trade, correlative with an improvement in may be appreciated from the following figures, which me detail the imports of wine into the United Kingdom ear 1896. The quantities represent both wine in cask and

ry.	Gallons.	Country.	Gallons.
	6,736,718	United States	238,365
	3,723,299	Madeira	61,753
	3,571,520	British South Africa	9,803
	703,676	Other countries	185,339
	631,101		
	426,742	Total	16,695,560
	407,244		

tal quantity imported, there were 11,638,415 gallons of red, 45 gallons of white wine. The imports from France com- ,288 gallons of red, and 1,988,430 gallons of white wine; the n Portugal, 3,560,280 gallons of red, and 11,240 gallons of those from Spain, 1,922,982 gallons of white, and 1,800,317 d wine.

s have been much exercised recently with the problem of zation of wines for export. By this process the wines are sub- temperature of from 140° to 150° Fahrenheit, thereby fixing ristics of a product, annihilating the destructive germs that eterioration, and making it impossible for them to reinvade herto the experiments in this direction have been only

foregoing it will be seen that the export of the wines of Wales, about which so much has been written, does not e very encouraging results; in fact, the trade is a very small one, and has decreased from 54,143 gallons sent away fro colony in 1891 to 24,177 gallons in 1896. The quantity sent las to the United Kingdom amounted to 6,394 gallons, or 12,900 g less than that exported in 1892, when the export amounted to 1 gallons. During some years a considerable quantity of wine wa away in wood from the Albury and Riverine districts to the neigh ing colony of Victoria, presumably for shipment at Melbourne. 1891, when the export of the wine produced in New South amounted to 54,143 gallons, the trans-Murray consignments to 38,548 gallons of the quantity exported. This intercolonial expo now, however, fallen to insignificant proportions.

In the following table will be found particulars of the export in wine locally produced, for the five years extending from 18 1896:—

Country.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	g
United Kingdom	19,294	17,941	12,038	6,249	
Victoria	50	298	7,162	4,156	
New Zealand	1,860	1,174	2,082	3,500	
India and Ceylon	854	1,002	2,292	2,339	
Queensland	1,981	1,751	2,487	2,239	
South Sea Islands	1,466	1,363	1,704	2,019	
British New Guinea, Singapore, Java, the Philippine Islands, the Straits Settlements, and Siam	......	4	404	619	
Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Norfolk Island	395	135	254	201	
New Caledonia	1,595	1,510	379	88	
Japan, China, and Hong Kong	52	32	867	80	
France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy	301	193	94	67	
Canada and the United States	......	365	623	......	
Egypt and the Mauritius	9	......	......	......	
Total	27,857	25,768	30,386	21,557	2

During the year ending the 31st March, 1862, the wine produ New South Wales measured 85,328 gallons; in 1866, the prod reached 168,123 gallons; in 1876 it had increased to 831,749 ga in 1886 the production was only 555,470 gallons; and in 18 reached 885,673 gallons; while in the following year it was 79 gallons. The highest production was obtained in 1893, the qu totalling 931,542 gallons—137,286 gallons more than in 1897, alt the area in the latter year was greater by 462 acres. Vign consider 250 gallons per acre a good yield, but the average for New South Wales reached this figure only in one year sinc establishment of the industry, viz., in 1876, when the average yie acre was recorded as 263 gallons.

following statement shows the progress of the industry since

Total area under vines.	Area under vines for wine-making only.	Production.		Year ended 31st March.	Total area under vines.	Area under vines for wine-making only.	Production.	
		Total.	Average per acre.				Total.	Average per acre.
acres.	acres.	gallons.	galls.		acres.	acres.	gallons.	galls.
1,460	795	144,888	182	1882	4,027	2,597	513,688	198
1,641	880	136,976	156	1883	4,448	2,629	543,596	207
1,849	945	161,299	171	1884	4,378	2,560	589,604	230
2,126	1,243	168,123	135	1885	4,584	2,405	442,612	184
2,281	1,358	242,183	178	1886	5,247	2,876	555,470	193
2,632	1,483	285,283	192	1887	5,840	3,131	601,897	192
3,117	1,917	412,587	215	1888	6,745	3,292	666,382	202
3,907	2,039	460,321	226	1889	7,072	3,596	805,813	225
4,504	2,371	342,674	145	1890	7,867	3,603	688,685	191
4,152	2,466	413,321	168	1891	8,044	3,896	842,181	216
4,090	2,568	451,450	176	1892	8,281	3,846	913,107	237
4,547	3,183	578,985	182	1893	8,264	4,146	931,542	225
4,308	3,077	684,258	222	1894	7,375	4,130	748,929	181
4,459	3,163	831,749	263	1895	7,577	4,475	731,683	164
4,457	3,217	799,709	249	1896	7,519	4,390	885,673	202
4,183	3,027	708,431	234	1897	8,061	4,608	794,256	172
4,237	3,024	684,733	226					
4,266	3,091	733,576	237					
4,800	2,907	602,007	201		Mean for 35 years ...			203

above figures show that the wine industry has very considerably ed during the period under review, the total area planted being er seven times what it was in the year 1862, when it stood at cres, from 562 acres of which grapes were gathered for wine-; the total production being 85,328 gallons. The yields for the 876, 1877, 1889, 1884, 1892, and 1893 were the best of the The total number of vine-growers in 1897 was 2,031. The average each vineyard was 3·9 acres; and the area planted with vines an unproductive state was 760 acres.

onnection with the wine-making industry there was during the 1896-7 a manufacture of 7,134 gallons of brandy, which was wever, distilled for local consumption, but for the purpose of ng wines.

wine industry is unquestionably hampered in its development by things, including phylloxera vastatrix, oidium, anthracnose, llars, and other pests. Phylloxera has caused some damage in ineyards of the neighbouring colony of Victoria, seriously ning the stability of the industry, and necessitating stringent ive measures. It has appeared also in some vineyards in the n, Seven Hills, and Parramatta districts, but so far without any great ravages, although some alarm exists among wine growers touching its development in the future. The knowledg this pest has obtained a foothold in the colony, however slight i be, has certainly stopped investment in vineyard properties, a greatly damped the enthusiasm of those interested in the wine At present the afflicted areas are confined to isolated patches, b is quite enough to cause the gravest apprehension. A commissio appointed a few years ago to report on the appearance of the d and the best means of preventing its spreading throughout the vin of the colony. The prohibition of the importation of vine-cutting abroad has been in force for some time, and the destruction of in vineyards has been carried out under the direction of the Vine Di Board ; but vignerons recommend direct legislative action under a stringent Act than that at present in operation. It is interesti note that, in consequence of the greater attention that vigner France have had to devote to the vines in order to combat the r made by the phylloxera, the last state of the vineyards in that co is said to be better than the first.

In order to advance the interests of the wine-growing indus New South Wales, experts advise the restriction of the choice of to a few well-tried and sound varieties, careful fermentation, the p vation as far as possible of constant types, attractive bottling, moderate price-list which should not make a good product prohib A comprehensive Wine and Fruit Pest Act, and a strictly en Food Adulteration Act, are also deemed necessary. In order to p the knowledge of vignerons in the manufacture of wine, it is sug that a College of Viticulture, on a basis similar to that of the cultural College, should be established for the purpose of imparti intending wine-growers a capable training. The college should be the direction of a competent viticulturist, should have attached vineyard of some extent, and should be furnished with a well-org cellar, and an œnological laboratory, where analyses of must win every experiment relating to wine-making could be conducted, view to subsequent publication of results. Were these sugg carried into effect, there can be little doubt that there would be a m improvement in the prospects of the wine industry.

TABLE-GRAPES AND RAISIN-FRUITS.

The culture of grapes is not restricted to the production of fr the purposes of wine manufacture only, for a considerable area is d to the cultivation of table-grapes, particularly in the neighbourh Sydney, and in Ryde, Parramatta, and other districts of C Cumberland. The extent of country devoted to this branch industry in 1892-3 comprised 2,211 acres, with a production of tons of grapes, giving an average of 2·7 tons of fruit per acr 1893-4 the area yielding table-grapes was 2,131 acres, with a prod of 3,216 tons, or an average yield of 1·5 tons to the acre. This

d diminution in yield per acre, together with a decrease in the
der culture. In 1894–5 the number of acres cultivated num-
358; and the production was 4,617 tons, or an average yield of
tons to the acre; in 1895–6 the area increased to 2,487 acres,
production fell to 4,017 tons, the average yield being 1·6 tons
; while in 1896-7 there was a further increase in area to 2,693
ut there was a still smaller yield, namely, only 2,885 tons,
n average of 1·1 ton per acre.

no effort has been made in New South Wales to prepare raisin-
r foreign consumption, although there are undoubted possibilities
ge export trade in this direction. In Victoria and South Aus-
ttlements have been founded at Mildura and Renmark for the
of cultivating, drying, and preserving fruit on a large scale,
a local and an export trade, similar to the industry as it is
ed in California, where the lands are artificially irrigated, and
ts of nature are seconded by the discoveries of modern science.
ents made in drying grapes and currants of Australian culture
t with success in the London markets, and experts have declared
uct to be of the highest quality. New South Wales is, perhaps,
re favourably situated for the prosecution of this industry than
f the sister colonies, and with the extension of settlement, and
ng out of cultivation of such products as are more cheaply grown
and more suitably climatic parts of the world, the building up
ge export trade in raisins, muscatels, dried currants, figs, and
aples peculiar to the isles of the Levant and the Grecian penin-
y confidently be expected.

CITRUS FRUITS.

ultivation of the orange and the lemon has become one of the
l industries of the districts surrounding the metropolis. The
nge groves were planted near the town of Parramatta, and soon
o the neighbouring districts of Ryde, Pennant Hills, Lane Cove,
le of Central Cumberland, the valleys of the Hawkesbury and
Rivers, and the slopes of the Kurrajong Mountains.

tics relating to this branch of fruit culture are available only
e year 1879. At that date the area under oranges and lemons
rded as 4,287 acres; this had increased in 1893 to 11,158 acres,
g a productive area of 8,661 acres, with a yield amounting to
990 dozen oranges, giving an average of about 1,200 dozen per
In 1894 the extent of land under citrus fruits amounted to
cres, and included a productive area of 9,237 acres, with a yield
9,600,290 dozen, or an average of about 1,040 dozen to the
The area under orange and lemon trees in 1895 comprised 12,204
he productive area, 9,242 acres; and the total yield, 8,703,252
or an average of 940 dozen to the acre. In 1896 the area
to 11,956 acres, of which 8,759 were productive, yielding

5,954,940 dozen oranges, or an average of 680 dozen per acre. .
the total area increased to 12,489 acres in the following seas
were only 8,359 acres returned as productive, and the yield
5,845,900 dozen oranges, the average being 700 dozen per acr
estimated that over 3,000 dozen of fruit to the acre can be obt
an average season from fair-sized trees in full bearing, and it
fore probable that the figures given include the production
siderable number of young trees.

The number of orangeries cultivated during the year 18
2,019, and of these the average area was nearly 6·2 acres.
of the industry in each year since 1879 is shown in the s
statement:—

Year ending 31st March.	Area of Orangeries. Acres.	Year ending 31st March.	Area of
1879	4,287	1889	1
1880	5,106	1890	
1881	5,939	1891	1
1882	6,301	1892	1
1883	6,716	1893	1
1884	7,268	1894	1
1885	6,911	1895	1
1886	7,733	1896	1
1887	7,920	1897	1
1888	8,875		

The production of oranges has already attained such proporti
the growers are obliged to seek markets abroad for the disposal
produce, as the demand, both in New South Wales and in the
colonies, is in some seasons exceeded by the supply. Efforts
late been made to open up a market in England, as the frui
delivered in London at a time when the supply of oranges fro
and other countries of the northern hemisphere has ceased. A
mental shipment of New South Wales oranges was made by th
of Exports in the course of 1896, the result being generally reg
very satisfactory. The fruit were landed in London in the m
September, when the market was rather bare, the season for D
Valencia oranges—which form the chief supply of the metr
beginning about the middle of October and lasting till the end
The packing was generally good, while the fruit which were v
firmly packed in white paper are declared to have looked very ni
opened, and the agents in whose hands the shipment was pl
disposal recommend the use of tissue paper only for packing.
avoidance of soft shavings, sand, and pumice dust. Of the 1,7
15 were taken in the hold of the mail steamer "Ophir," ar
opened unsatisfactorily. The remaining 1,725 cases were carri
cold-storage chambers of the vessel, and the freight was cons
very high, averaging for the whole shipment 3s. 11d. per case.
this heavy charge, however, a net profit of £143 10s. 7d. was
on the transaction, equal to a return of 14·7 per cent. The f
£487 10s. 6d.; freight amounted to £343 13s. 4d., and other ch

s. 1d., making a total sum of £999 15s. 11d., which was reduced 4s. 7d. by returns from the sale of culls, etc. The oranges £1,195 15s. 6d., from which fell to be deducted £84 0s. 4d. mission and charges in London, leaving the proceeds at 15s. 2d., or, as already stated, £143 10s. 7d. in excess of the t.

ally speaking, however, the export of oranges has not met with at success, owing to imperfect sweating and bad packing. Experts that in curing citrus fruits for export the shrinking is not more m 15 to 25 per cent., and that to pluck crops in June and July reat them not only relieves the tree of a burden of fruit during od when another yield is preparing, but obviates the glutting cal market with the ripened product. If the fruit is suffered to til December, the strain on the tree is excessive, and its vitality sly impaired. It is, moreover, stated that the neglect on the growers of citrus fruits in New South Wales to pull and prepare ly product has resulted in the lemons grown in this colony being out of the markets of Victoria and New Zealand by cured and Mildura varieties. In 1896 the export of oranges was ed at 5,500,000 dozen; but though the trade is at present so its prospects, like those of other industries, are regarded as by ans discouraging. It is hoped also that in time there may be hed, in connection with the orangeries of New South Wales, actories for the preparation of candied citron, orange, and lemon s well as of oils and essences of citrus fruits. The crystalliza- f mandarins may likewise be an industry of profitable future tion; and with the introduction and acclimatization of the orange there should be no reason why Sydney should not rival in the production of marmalade. Unfortunately, the proverbial nism of the Briton to culture of any fruit, cereal, or fabric-plant wn to the climatic zone of his native land, has hitherto injuri- perated against the introduction of many vegetable staples which ment and experience have amply demonstrated would flourish ntly in Australia, to the advantage both of the individual and community.

ORCHARDS AND FRUIT GARDENS.

ome years past there has been but little increase in the acreage rchards and fruit gardens. In 1889–90, the year when orchards nd under cultivation to dessert and other fruits, exclusive of ries and vineyards, were first distinguished from gardens devoted cultivation of vegetables and general market-garden produce, al area so tilled amounted to 18,867 acres, and of this area 7,167 were situated in the metropolitan county of Cumberland. In ricultural year ending 31st March, 1897, the area similarly ted amounted to 32,555 acres, showing an increase during the seven years of 13,688 acres. The area under orchards and fruit in the county of Cumberland, including both productive and ductive holdings, is now 14,193 acres, or an increase of 7,026 a the figures of 1890. Notwithstanding this advance, the fruit- tion of New South Wales is still far behind the demands of loc sumption. The colony, therefore, is obliged to import large qua the greater part of which could be successfully grown within i boundaries. Leaving out of the question the considerable impor of tropical fruits from Fiji, the South Sea Islands, and Quee (and some varieties could most certainly be cultivated in the t portion of New South Wales), the introduction of fruit from is still greatly in excess of the moderately-estimated possibili local production.

The following table shows the area under orchards and fruit-g exclusive of orangeries and vineyards, together with the total v each year's yield, for the period during which statistics relative subject have been collected :—

Year ended 31st March.	Area of Productive Fruit-gardens and Orchards.	Area of Fruit-gardens and Orchards not bearing.	Total area cultivated for Fruit-gardens and Orchards.	Total value of the Production of Fruit-gardens and Orchards.	Appr avera per
	acres.	acres.	acres.	£	£
1890	14,342	4,525	18,867	185,012	12
1891	16,081	6,274	22,355	213,934	13
1892	16,606	7,424	24,030	211,790	12
1893	18,117	8,163	26,280	229,425	12
1894	19,330	7,663	26,993	197,374	10
1895	21,465	8,258	29,723	175,473	8
1896	20,635	8,145	28,780	130,735	6
1897	24,031	8,524	32,555	159,715	6

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the value of th production was highest during the agricultural season 1892–3, h approximate average value per acre was highest for the year 1890- agricultural season 1895–6 showed a decline in the value of th production of orchards and fruit gardens amounting to £44,73 that of the previous year, to £66,639 from that of 1894, and to £ from that of the year 1893; while the approximate average val acre of the season declined by £1 16s. from that of 1895, and by £ from that of 1891, the year of the series showing the best retu this particular. In 1896–7, however, there was an improvement extent of £28,980 in the total value, and of 6s. per acre in the a value. The approximate average annual value for the eight extending from 1890 to 1897 was £7 3s. per acre. It will be that while there has been an advance in the productive are described as not bearing appears to have remained for several tationary; the total amount of new land put under orchard and ops, other than oranges, lemons, and grapes, during the seven ding 31st March, 1897, was, however, recorded as 11,122 acres, verage of 1,589 acres per annum. The subjoined statement he amount of acreage of the productive area under fruit-gardens hards for each of the eight years under notice, the acreage rom year to year from areas previously not bearing, and the d put each season under this form of cultivation:—

roductive a of Fruit-ardens and Orchards, from pre-ding year.	Area added from Fruit-gardens and Orchards previously unproductive.	Total Productive Area.	Area of Fruit-gardens and Orchards not bearing, remaining from previous year.	New land put under cultivation to Fruit-gardens and Orchards.	Total area not bearing.	Total area under cultivation to Fruit-gardens and Orchards.
acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
14,342	......	14,342	4,525	......	4,525	18,867
14,342	1,739	16,081	2,786	3,488	6,274	22,355
16,081	525	16,606	5,749	1,675	7,424	24,030
16,606	1,511	18,117	5,913	2,250	8,163	26,280
18,117	1,213	19,330	6,950	713	7,663	26,993
19,330	2,135	21,465	5,528	2,730	8,258	29,723
21,465	*830	20,635	8,258	*113	8,145	28,780
20,635	4,396	24,031	8,145	379	8,524	32,555
....	10,689	....	....	11,122	....	....

* Gone out of cultivation.

m the figures just given it will be seen that 10,689 acres have been to the productive area, during the period, out of 11,122 acres of nd put under cultivation.

the year 1896 the value of the imports of bananas, principally Queensland, the New Hebrides, and Fiji, amounted to £63,885; -apples, nearly all of which came from Queensland, to £8,441; r green fruit, mostly from Tasmania, to £181,444; of dried and d fruit—including currants and raisins (£64,692), dates (£7,897), uts and other edible nuts—to £103,962, of which the United om supplied £40,060; and of bottled fruits and fruit boiled or p, to £9,540; or a total for the year of £367,272. From this be deducted the value of the re-exports of foreign-grown fruits New South Wales during the same period; and this amounted to 72, including green fruits of various kinds to the value of £29,692. et value of the importations of foreign-grown fruit into New Wales during 1896 was, therefore, £320,200, or £101,047 higher n the preceding year, £123,772 higher than in 1894, and £103,153 than in 1893. The export of locally-grown fruit during 1896 ted in value to £100,092, which was almost wholly made up of green fruit, the chief customers of the colony being Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand. The value of the domestic production for the agricultural season 1896–7, including oranges and grapes for table use, may be set down at £298,000; the value of the imports for the year 1896 was £367,272, and of the exports £147,164. The local consumption of fruit for the year was, therefore, valued at £518,000, or £111,000 more than that of 1895. The colony's contribution of fruit to its own wants was valued at £198,000—an amount showing an increase of £10,000 on the figures for 1895.

If to the results just given be added the net imports of canned fruits, jams and jellies, ginger, and other preserves of foreign production, the balance of exchange in fruit commodities will be further modified. The net imports of these commodities may be set down for 1893 at £16,503; for 1894 at £14,410; for 1895 at £8,630; and for 1896 at £28,220. The imports for local consumption of all fruits and fruit products, fresh, dried, canned, candied, preserved, boiled, in pulp, and bottled, would amount, in 1893, to £233,550; in 1894, to £210,838; in 1895, to £158, 797; and in 1896, to £248,328—a sum which is far too large in view of the colony's natural resources, both of soil and of climate. It must be admitted that New South Wales is far in the rear as a fruit-producing country, and the names of the lands from which she derives so large a portion of the fruits and fruit-products locally consumed are convincing of the fact, seeing the range of climate and varying qualities of soil possessed by the colony, which are in many cases also identical with those of the fruit-importing countries mentioned, that, with some few exceptions, there could be produced all the fruit demanded for local consumption.

Fruit-growers, however, may look beyond the prospect of supplying the country's requirements in fruit products with those locally grown. The success which has attended the export of fruit from Tasmania has shown orchardists in this colony that they may find it more profitable to grow with a view to exporting to England than to place their product in a glutted market at home; and it needs only a few successes in London to cause a development of the trade. During the past few years the dried fruits prepared at Mildura have made a good impression in England, and demonstrated the possibility of profitable trade, provided all the primary conditions of careful curing and packing are scrupulously and undeviatingly fulfilled. Victoria has recently opened up an experimental exportation of apples to Java and Singapore; and shippers in the neighbouring colony consider that they have discovered an ideal packing material in the shredded bark of the tea-tree, which has been used also with great success as a packing medium for passion-fruit, consignments of the latter having reached London in an excellent state of preservation. There are, indeed, great possibilities in the matter of an export trade in fruit, not from New South Wales alone, but from all the Australasian colonies, when shippers have learnt how to dry and pack their consignments in such a manner as to ensure soundness and preservation of ur during the voyage. At present, as in the wine-growing interest, ruit industry has suffered, not so much from lack of foreign appreon and interest, as from the inexperience of those engaged in the e.

he subjoined table shows the productive, non-bearing, and total area er cultivation to dessert, table, and preserving fruits, exclusive of es, oranges, and lemons, together with the total value of the season's rns, the average value of the yield per acre, and the number of ivators engaged, arranged according to the geographical divisions which the colony has been divided for purposes of comparison :—

Division of the Colony.	Productive Area.	Area not yet bearing.	Total area.	Total value of production.	Average value per acre.
Coast—	acres.	acres.	acres.	£	£ s. d.
orthern District	694	243	937	4,975	7 3 0
unter and Hawkesbury Valleys	2,975	1,268	4,243	19,433	6 11 0
ounty of Cumberland and Metropolis	10,830	3,363	14,193	74,278	6 17 0
uthern District.....................	1,841	863	2,704	10,203	5 11 0
Total	16,340	5,737	22,077	108,889	6 13 2
Table-land—					
orthern District	1,500	446	1,946	9,690	6 9 0
entral ,, ...	2,463	772	3,235	15,021	6 2 0
uthern ,, ...	2,901	1,168	4,069	17,662	6 2 0
Total	6,864	2,386	9,250	42,373	6 3 6
Western Slope—					
orthern District	259	73	332	2,717	10 10 0
entral ,, ...	85	53	138	1,131	13 6 0
uthern District and Valley of the Murray	418	236	654	2,672	6 8 0
Total	762	362	1,124	6,520	8 11 2
Western Plains	65	39	104	1,933	29 15 0
Grand Total	24,031	8,524	32,555	159,715	6 12 11

Of the total area under fruit orchards in New South Wales, over thirds are situated in the coastal belt, and nearly one-half in the tropolitan county of Cumberland. While, however, the acreage and al value of production diminish progressively with each division of colony westward from the coastal belt, the average yield per acre ighest in the western plains and on the western slope. The total under fruit of all kinds in New South Wales was 53,105 acres. Of extent of land, 32,554 acres were under orchard fruits, 12,490 acres e under citrus fruits, and 8,061 acres were under grape vines.

FLORICULTURE.

Statistics regarding this branch of agriculture have not yet b collected, although there are numerous nurseries, besides private gard in the metropolitan county, in which flowers, plants, and ornamen trees and shrubs are cultivated purely in the interests of comme The climate of Sydney is warm and humid, and splendid varieties hydrangeas, orchids, azaleas, pelargoniums, bouvardias, gladioli, ch anthemums, dahlias, gloxinias, rhododendrons, and many other spe of decorative flora, are cultivated with success. The coastal bush la and the valleys of the Hawkesbury and its different reaches, a explored for variegated, tree, and stag-horn ferns, and their sale for an active part of the metropolitan horticulturist's business. S denizens of the forests and ridges as the tiger-lily, the waratah, th stenocarpus, the flannel-flower, the Star of Bethlehem, the Christm bush, the wattle-blossom, and the Christmas-bell are gathered by itiner flower-vendors and hawked at the corners of streets, besides bei procurable in the nurseries and shops of florists. Landscape gardeni is an important branch of the industry, and a considerable sum i annually spent in the designing and forming of grounds and gard and in the erection of hot, glass, frame, and bush houses. Recentl flowers have attracted attention as the basis of an industry similar t that carried on in the Channel Islands and in different parts of Fra and Germany, viz., flower-cultivation for the manufacture of scent, industry, however, like others mentioned in this chapter, which awaits development in a more or less distant future. Experiments in this direction are now being made at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

It is matter for deep regret that the colony's beautiful native flora is being gradually destroyed. It now contributes, in forming the staple of annual displays, to the reduction of the debts on churches and other institutions; and the coast-slopes and the bush-lands in the neighbourhood of every town are periodically denuded to furnish attractions to local flower-shows and charity bazaars, the well-meaning decorators of which, not content with merely plucking the blooms they require for their floral designs, tear them out by the roots, and create a waste where there was formerly a garden.

VEGETABLE OILS AND ESSENCES.

Besides the preparation of eucalyptus oil and essence, dealt with in the chapter on forestry, and the probabilities of the establishment of an industry of flower-culture for the making of scents, referred to in the preceding section of this chapter, there are a number of as yet undeveloped branches of manufacture of vegetable oils and essences, capable of almost indefinite prosecution. Chief of these are the culture of t olive, the castor-oil plant, and linseed. Oil of lemons and essence s have already been touched upon in that part of this chapter treats of citrus fruits, and, therefore, require no further refer- here.

tle has been attempted in New South Wales in the culture of the which not only yields a particularly valuable oil, but the fruit of h, as a pickle, constitutes a highly profitable article of commerce. e future, however, its cultivation will be stimulated by a growing demand. In South Australia, where the olive is rapidly becoming a e, and where considerable areas have been placed under the trees, a gallon for the oil has been received by the growers. The soil and ate of New South Wales, in districts where the range of tempera- is similar to that of the olive-growing countries which border the iterranean, should be no less favourable to the culture of the olive the soil and climate of South Australia; in fact, they are claimed ome enthusiasts to be even, in certain respects, superior to the r. In regard to what has been attempted locally by way of uraging this industry, it may be mentioned that the Agricultural artment of the colony has had planted, at the Murrumbidgee rimental farm, eight acres of olive slips, as a nursery whence young s may be supplied to persons in the colony desirous of essaying the ure of the olive. There is also half an acre at the Pera Bore, and a small areas around Albury, making altogether about a dozen acres he colony. Occasionally an application for olive trees is received by Department of Agriculture, but none are available yet for distribu- and applicants are in the meantime referred to South Australia.

he castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*, or *Palma Christi*) grows riantly in the humid coastal districts of the colony; as it does, ed, in most tropical and sub-tropical countries, and in the regions lering the Mediterranean, viz., Greece, Italy, and Spain. The ual consumption of castor oil in Australasia is over 520,000 gallons, which 184,000 gallons represent the requirements of New South les. Nearly the whole of the supply is derived from India; and the age wholesale price of the oil in Sydney is about 2s. 6d. per gallon. initial cost of establishing the industry would be heaviest in the of machinery for expressing the oil, although the price of labour ld also have to be considered carefully, as the Calcutta oil is pro- d at a minimum outlay in this particular. Oil can be separated the seeds of the *Palma Christi* also by boiling in water, but though largest quantity can thus be procured, the resultant product is apt ecome rancid, a disability to which the expressed oil is not liable, e expression of the seeds is now the process most commonly fol- d in manufacturing the oil.

ne of the most valuable of crops is the flax (*Linum usitatissimum*), it is matter of surprise that more persistent efforts have not been e to acclimatise it in New South Wales. The plant not only yields t" of two kinds—namely, the long fibre called "flax" and the short called "tow"—but a valuable seed also, of the greatest use as a

fodder for cattle, in the form of oilcake, of which it forms the
ingredient; for medicinal purposes; and, above all, for the manufa
of the raw and boiled oils of commerce, known as linseed oil, which
the bases of all paint-mediums. The value of this plant can hard
exaggerated. There is always a good demand for flax fibre, whet
be long line or coarse tow, and a lint crop is always disposable.
Zealand flax-fibre brings about £14 per ton in the Sydney market;
raw linseed oil, from 2s. to 2s. 2d. per gallon. The plant will
and return satisfactory results in any district where wheat will
been grown successfully, and it is an admirable rotation crop. It is
favourably cultivated in dry lands, in districts fairly free from
which retard its progress and stunt its growth. In country where
is scarce fibre may be obtained from the flax-plant suitable for co
and lint or tow adapted to the manufacture of carriage cushions,
process known as "dry-rotting," in which the dews and the sunshin
utilised to disintegrate the stalks. In the following table is given
of the net imports in 1896 of various commodities which might eas
supplied, with perhaps one or two exceptions, by locally-grown fla
hemp crops:—

Commodity.	Value.
	£
Linseed oil	37,868
Linseed	1,033
Canvas	40,582
Cordage and rope	42,212
Phormium tenax	6,737
Other flax and hemp	14,048
Fibre	3,600
Total £	146,080

With the increase of population, and the development of the
farming and shipping interests, the demand for linseed and the v
products of the flax-plant is bound to grow. The industry has made
progress in India, the Argentine Republic, and the United States.
import of linseed into the United Kingdom during 1896 amount
2,578,864 quarters, valued at £4,022,676; and of linseed cake, 22
tons, valued at £1,162,840. Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) could also, d
less, be successfully acclimatised in New South Wales. It is sup
to be a native of India, but it has long since been naturalised
extensively cultivated in Italy, Russia, Poland, and America. W
large a range of habitat the difficulties of its introduction to this c
cannot be laid to the charge either of soil or of climate.

Another article of import which might, perhaps, be locally pro
is that of cotton-seed oil, of which in 1896 the colony imported 3
gallons, valued at £3,714; but though the quantity looks small, it

embered that extensive domestic production would mean an d application of the product. Moreover, cotton is a plant of so value to commerce that its cultivation, essayed already to some in Queensland, would not be undertaken for the purpose of ng a staple for oil manufacture alone. The great difficulty which n the way of cotton culture is, however, the very high price of bour as compared with that of India and some other countries ; e colony could never hope to compete against the raw material from the seaports of the Indian Peninsula to supply the looms hester. Nevertheless, very small areas are cropped with cotton xtreme northern districts of the colony ; and large areas have ise climatic and soil conditions under which cotton is grown to ge in the United States of America. In Queensland, where vation dates from the days of Dr. Lang, ambitious hopes are ned with regard to its development in the future.

o (*Indigofera tinctoria*) is a plant the future of the cultivation h in New South Wales is looked forward to with some expecta- those who have studied its possibilities in its new habitat. There e colony a wild plant (*Indigofera australis*), from which it was inctorial juice might be obtained ; but experiments have hitherto unsuccessful. The true plant which supplies the indigo of ce occurs wild in the colony of Queensland, and there is no why it should not be acclimatised in New South Wales ; indeed, ents are now being conducted with a view of establishing it as rly cultivated crop. Indigo yields the drug from which the l dye bearing its name is obtained, by maceration in water.

HOPS.

are but little cultivated in New South Wales, although a few all crops are picked in the neighbourhood of Orange. In Vic- asmania, and New Zealand, however, they are successfully grown, duct being but little inferior to the celebrated Kentish hops of d. In the opinion of experts they could also be successfully n New South Wales, which imported during 1896 no less than 58 lb. of hops, valued at £40,701. The plant will grow in a te climate, free from hot winds in the summer ; although frosts er are beneficial, particularly in nipping the growth of young and thus forcing the vitality of the plant into the bines and fruit their proper season. Plantations of hops should be cultivated lose neighbourhood of townships and villages, in order to secure ur of women and children in tying up bines, and branching and the hops when ripe. The districts specially adapted for the ion of the hop-plant are Armidale, Orange, Goulburn, and

FAILURE OF CROPS.

During the agricultural year ended March, 1897, there were cases of total or partial failure of crops, affecting an area of 12 acres. Of these, 4,085 were due to drought, more particularly aff the wheat crops on the southern and central table-lands. The area affected by drought was 110,346 acres, of which the area with wheat for grain comprised 59,059 acres, and for hay, 33,306 a The next largest area affected by any single cause was 5,753 acr blight, 4,304 acres of which were under wheat crops. There were cases of failure, over an area of 2,423 acres, of which the causes not specified, but they affected chiefly the wheat and fruit crops in southern and central districts. In the northern coast districts s cane suffered a little from frost. The ravages of rabbits and were the cause of 135 cases of failure of crops, covering an ar 4,441 acres, nearly all of which were situated in the wheat-lands o colony. The number of cases of rust reported for the last seas small, only 22 instances of loss, affecting an area of 216 acres, b recorded. Hailstorms ruined crops in 202 cases, over 1,338 a principally on the central highlands. From bush fires no losses recorded, and the area affected by floods and excessive rain was small. In 36 cases the failure of crops, cultivated over 215 acres, caused by vermin. For the last three seasons only has the acreage the crops which have resulted in failure been obtained, and the fig are given below, together with the number of instances of failure each cause :—

Causes of Failure.	Number of Failures.			Acreage affected.		
	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1894–5.	1895–6.	18
Drought	1,210	12,779	4,085	31,342	228,154	11
Flood	1,703	825	31	23,250	8,898	
Excessive rains	609	46	32	19,843	696	
Rabbits and hares	202	80	135	6,179	1,458	
Rust	30	29	22	2,559	690	
Hailstorms	165	130	202	1,769	1,895	
Blight	132	81	229	1,475	620	
Bush-fires	10	14	.....	451	264	..
Vermin	43	27	36	294	118	
Frosts	66	472	356	252	3,563	
Locusts	4	8	2	17	243	
Causes not specified.	569	199	271	8,774	1,697	
Total	4,743	14,690	5,401	96,205	248,296	1

A reference to the figures just given shows that rabbits and during the last three years nearly equal, in the area ascribed to ons, the ravages occasioned by rust, hailstorms, frosts, and bush-together; and it must be remembered that the figures given do sent all the injury to crops wrought by these vermin, for a con- percentage of the losses in the colony's wheat-lands from specified, particularly in the southern districts, may justly be eir charge.

will be found a statement showing the area under each crop l during the last three years:—

of Crop.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.
—	acres.	acres.	acres.
....	53,732	111,754	68,366
....	22,724	28,100	6,783
....	1,229	4,065	791
....	197	117	79
....	330	1,806	509
....	75	130	48
....	13	123	12
....	78,300	146,094	77,088
-			
....	6,145	54,586	35,022
....	4,978	32,427	7,681
....	1,444	2,602	1,811
....	87	546	210
....	12,654	90,161	44,724
—			
....	830	1,921	582
....	25	78	22
....	7	29	21
wurzel	3	10	5
....	865	2,038	630

Description of Crop.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
Sugar and Tobacco Crops—			
Sugar	2,586	3,400	1,771
Tobacco	92	141	8
Total	2,678	3,541	1,779
Fruit Crops—			
Grapes	439	532	683
Oranges	79	552	221
Other fruits	654	3,615	1,904
Total	1,172	4,699	2,808
Kitchen Garden, Produce, &c.—			
Pumpkins and melons	370	487	196
Produce of market gardens	145	1,103	402
Peas and beans ..	9	136	25
Total	524	1,726	623
All other Crops ..	12	37	8
Grand Total ..	96,205	248,296	127,660

SERICULTURE.

attention has, during the past few years, been given to the ties of silk culture, and experiments in this direction have ttended with a fair measure of success. When the of the public was first directed to the industry, mis- ere made in obtaining eggs prior to making provision for istence of the worms, and consequent failures dashed the f the inexperienced enthusiasts who so unpreparedly the culture of silk. In the neighbouring colony of Victoria re also being made to encourage farmers to add sericulture to nor industries, and expectations are entertained of future large ts of cocoons, as, for some years to come, little prospect of turing silk locally can be entertained, the colony lacking the experience of skilled labour, and the complex appliances of m machinery.

The first practical step towards acclimatising the production o is the placing under cultivation to the white mulberry (*Morus* sufficient land to grow the only food for the worms which i systematic sericulture possible. The caterpillars, called "silkw will live on the leaves of various kinds of trees, but it is only they are nourished on the leaf of the white mulberry tree that will form cocoons of a marketable value, capable of furnishing sil able for the looms of the manufacturer.

The varieties of white mulberry best adapted to the demands o cultivator anxious for immediate results are *Morus alba* var sub-variety *Macrophylla* (*Morettiana*), and the *Morus alba la* (*Multicaulis*), the young trees of which supply an abundant c leaves of good quality, useful during the early life of the silk- though not the best for the completion of the process of silk-c They also form excellent stocks for budding with the varieties h more substantial leaves, such as the *Morus alba vulgaris*, sub-v *Rosea*, and the *Morus alba Italica*. If farmers would, in additi their other crops, cultivate about 2 acres of white mulberry they could, in the third year of growth from seed, begin experim in earnest upon the rearing of worms. With a unit of force, prising a half-grown family of about eighty individuals, the appro unit of cultivation would represent a plantation of about 2 ac white-mulberries, bearing some 5,000 trees. After removal and ning out, the farmer should have, in their third year of growth, trees, which, if they have thriven, should yield from a pound t pounds of leaves each, or, altogether, from a ton to two tons. cultivator is then in possession of enough raw material, in the fo mulberry-leaves, to produce from 1 cwt. to 2 cwt. of cocoons, wh of good quality, would be worth £4 or more per cwt. Arrange for housing silk-worms need not be very elaborate. Walls of w and-dab, smoothed and white-washed inside, with a roof of thatch stitute an ideal silk-worm house. Should the producer desire to the area under mulberries to 2 acres, he will find that his annual will be a fairly steady crop of from 5 to 7 cwt. of cocoons. produce of silk-worms fed from 2 acres of trees will not mate increase in amount, because with increased age the white mul takes up more and more room, and consequently requires succ thinnings-out, until in the course of years there will remain only 200 or 300 trees to the acre. According to authorities, the yi leaf per acre in France and Italy, from well-grown trees on fair is estimated at from 7,000 to 8,000 lb. The first step in series viz., the formation of white mulberry-tree plantations, is one the r of which have to be waited for; and this is the reason why so prom an industry has not obtained a better foothold in the colony. Of a people have endeavoured, and continue in their endeavours, t silk-worms without first growing proper food for them; but every such attempt at silk-production has failed, and is, in fact, foredoomed to failure.

Recently the attention of the public has been more strongly directed to the possibilities of sericulture by the labours of the Agricultural Department, some thousands of trees and cuttings having been planted during 1894. Little can be done, however, until these trees mature, as there is scarcely a single locality in the colony, at the present time, where there can be found leaf-bearing trees sufficient in number to carry worms in payable quantities. At Booral, in the Newcastle district, the Government has rented a white mulberry plantation, extending over seven acres, with a view of testing the practicability of developing a profitable sericultural industry. On the expiration of the lease at Booral it is intended to continue the experiment at the farm attached to the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, in which locality a large number of white mulberry-trees have been planted for future use. During the year 1894, Parliament voted a special grant of £200 in aid of the Women's Co-operative Silk-growing and Industrial Association; but it is in the extension of the plantations of white mulberry trees that we must look for the real growth of the sericultural industry, which is as yet in only its initial stages. A convincing effort in this direction has been made by the settlers of New Italy, near the Richmond River. These people comprise a number of Italian families, who came out with the Marquis de Ray to settle on the island of New Ireland, and who, on the failure of their leader's scheme of colonization, arrived in the colony of New South Wales in the year 1881. These immigrants have planted successfully a considerable area with white mulberry trees, and have initiated the industry of silk-production in the region of the northern rivers with fair prospects of its future profitable development. The silk is spun by the caterpillars of the genus *Phalæna*; of which the *Phalæna atlas* produces the greatest quantity, but the *Phalæna bombyx* is that commonly employed for this purpose in Europe. The best modern silkworms are obtained from Japan and Italy.

POULTRY FARMING.

Besides the casual barn-door fowls that run in the stack-yards of most farms, the produce of which is devoted chiefly to family consumption, many agriculturists make a special business of rearing and breeding fowls, both for egg-production and for the table; others, again, are poultry-farmers pure and simple, who give all their time and energies to the industry; while yet a third class, to be found only in the immediate neighbourhood of the big towns, and most of them in the metropolitan county of Cumberland, make of the breeding of selected and pure-strain types of birds a study, which meets with its reward in the prize show-pens of agricultural shows.

It is now several years since an exact estimate was made of number of poultry in the colony. Adjusting the figures to the pre year, the number of the principal kinds would be approximately a lows :—

Fowls	3,180,000
Ducks	320,000
Turkeys	234,000
Geese	97,000

The number of persons keeping poultry is 121,000, but, as ma surmised from the figures just given, the great majority of pou keepers own but few birds.

The annual production of eggs reaches about 90,000,000, but quantity is not quite sufficient for local consumption, as there i import which, in 1896, amounted to nearly 3,500,000 in excess o export. The annual consumption of poultry may be approximatel down at 2,000,000 fowls, 275,000 ducks, 200,000 turkeys, and 7 geese.

ENSILAGE.

Although the value of ensilage as fodder for cattle is gene acknowledged, this valuable method of preserving green foods is n extensively practised as it should be in a country liable to long pe of dry weather, as is New South Wales. The industry has att so slight development that an extended notice is not called for : it suffice to say that the use of silos is confined chiefly to the South (district and the table-land, and has not yet extended to the we slope of the mountains, or to the western plains, where it would to be most required. During the agricultural year ending 31st M 1897, the total production of ensilage was 13,498 tons from 10 the number of silos being more than double that of the previous and the production nearly four times as great.

HONEY FARMING.

The industry of honey production has acquired sufficient impor in New South Wales to deserve notice in these pages. Hives ar only kept on many of the farms devoted to general agriculture there are also in the colony a certain number of establishments of the sole business is the production of honey and beeswax. Most latter are to be found in the Blue Mountains, near the main W Line of Railway, in the neighbourhood of other main trunk lines in the districts surrounding the metropolis. The number of hives i colony, and their production of honey and wax for the past seven are shown in the subjoined table. Of the hives given for 1894,

, and 1897, there were 8,790, 13,355, 10,350, and 9,343 respectively
ned as unproductive:—

Year ended 31st March.	Hives.	Production.		Total Value.
		Honey.	Wax.	
	No.	lb.	lb.	£
1891	35,749	765,332	23,610	10,780
1892	39,728	894,583	33,786	12,850
1893	48,204	1,395,350	48,178	19,400
1894	53,483	1,139,557	39,242	16,100
1895	49,040	1,135,128	29,326	15,500
1896	37,742	1,123,209	27,520	14,200
1897	41,900	1,378,039	31,842	18,150

The average yield for the season ending March, 1897, from 32,557
ductive hives, was 42·3 lb. of honey per hive; and the total yield
wed an increase of 254,830 lb. of honey and 4,322 lb. of wax from
production of the preceding year. During 1896 New South Wales
ported 68,020 lb. of honey, valued at £1,117, but the import consisted
gely of supplies for the Barrier district from South Australia.
quantity exported by New South Wales in the course of the year
ounted to 24,437 lb., valued at £314, of which 15,792 lb., valued at
02, went to Belgium. The total quantity of honey exported from
Australasian colonies during the past six years is shown below.
1896 South Australia exported 572 lb. to the United Kingdom,
,422 lb. to Western Australia, and 34,488 lb. to New South Wales;
le Victoria, in which colony the export was stimulated by a bonus
d. per lb., sent 8,960 lb. to the United Kingdom. The total exports
he United Kingdom of the five colonies shown in the table below
from 344,694 lb. in 1895 to 60,724 lb. in 1896.

Colony.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
South Wales..........	2,451	7,543	6,620	13,241	12,504	2,640
toria	52,070	31,154	17,426	14,571	204,435	8,960
ensland	15,608	64,754	18,636	18,214	22,546	4,760
th Australia	32,948	30,582	33,097	86,112	246,533	572
Zealand.....	197,261	74,070	32,712	43,888	52,976	43,792

The adulteration of honey is probably one of the greatest ta at present confronting the bee-keeper. It is asserted by those ha knowledge of the business that fine amber-coloured honey does not with such a ready sale with agents as the darker varieties, becau latter admit of a very much greater quantity of glucose being u their adulteration.

Several small shipments of New South Wales honey made to En turned out unsatisfactorily, and the Australian product generall acquired a bad reputation. It is only right to say that this has accounted for in two ways, one of which is the cry maintained English producer for the purpose of excluding colonial imports competition with local products, a similar attempt having been with regard to Australian meat, butter, and other articles. The and by far the more serious one, however, is that the honey expor England has frequently been of the worst quality, and locally u able. Good quality has found a ready sale, but it is disposed American, Continental, or English, while the inferior article has identified with Australia. While the Government of Victoria g a bonus of 1d. per lb. on honey exported to ports outside of Austr they stipulated that the product should arrive at the port of desti in a good and marketable condition, and this must have had the of enhancing the reputation of the Australian article, if Victorian is sold as such.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The estimated value of implements used on the various fa £1,517,200—that is to say, 18s. 3d. for every acre cultivated, excl fallow lands and lands laid down in permanent grasses. This est does not include the value of carts, of machinery for dressing gra of anything not actually used in the various processes of tillag harvesting. The value of plant of all kinds used on farms is ap mately £2,280,000.

IRRIGATION.

The immense areas of rich land in parts of New South Wales have a fair average rainfall, have little more than commenced utilised for cultivation. It is, therefore, only natural that irrig should have received comparatively little attention. The two dire in which it has been, as a rule, found most valuable are as an ac to pastoral occupation, and as a means of growing fruit in places the rainfall is irregular and insufficient. Pumping engines have erected for supplying water for these purposes on every important throughout the colony, and, in addition, on many creeks; and t the areas irrigated are comparatively small, the results have been satisfactory in all cases where the conditions as to soil, etc., are su

Water Conservation Branch, which now constitutes a branch of
partment of Works, was engaged for a number of years in carry-
t the surveys, levels, and discharge observations necessary before
g at a conclusion as to what can and should be done in regard to
conservation and irrigation throughout the colony. The Branch
epared, in outline, schemes for irrigation on a large scale from
urray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and the proposed canal on the
side of the Murrumbidgee was actually staked out.

rder to obtain the best advice available, the Government decided
1896 to engage the services of Colonel F. J. Home, R.E., C.S.I.,
ly Inspector-General of Irrigation in India. Colonel Home spent
months in the colony, and during that time visited all the
al rivers of the interior, and inspected the sites of the principal
s proposed. In his report, which has recently been submitted
Minister, Colonel Home gives the opinion that there are only two
in this colony from which irrigation can be carried out on an
ive scale, and even in these cases he recommends that storage
should be constructed in the mountains to supplement the low
upplies. He recommends caution in regard to the construction
gation works, but considers that the canal on the south side of the
mbidgee, which was recommended some years ago by the Water
rvation Branch, promises better results than any other large
ion work which can be undertaken. Next to the proposed
mbidgee Southern Canal, Colonel Home recommended that a
from the river Murray, at Bungowannah, should be dealt with;
e considers that this work should await the results and the
ence to be gained by the construction of the former.

nel Home believes that there is a fair prospect of the irrigation
at Hay and Wentworth proving remunerative, and considers
that case the proposed works at Balranald should be proceeded

Water Rights Act, which has been in force since 1st November,
and which is administered by the Water Conservation Branch,
oved to be even more useful than was anticipated. Previous to
ng passed, dams and other works on rivers and creeks existed on
nce only, but under the Water Rights Act all rivers, creeks, and
re vested in the Minister for Works, who is empowered to grant
s for works after making due inquiry. Up to date the number
nses applied for is nearly 600, and it is a very satisfactory feature
e security now provided is inducing many landholders to under-
w works, including both dams and pumping machinery.

worthy of special mention in connection with the question of
conservation and irrigation that the lock and weir constructed at
in the river Darling has been very satisfactory in its working.
of low river the weir holds back water to a distance of about
s, and in flood time the shutters of which it is composed are
d on the river bed.

CULTIVATION AT TRIAL STATIONS.

At some of the bores and tanks owned by the State, experim cultivation by means of irrigation with artesian and catchment has been most successfully conducted; and lucerne, maize, wheat, tol sugar-cane, date-palms, bananas, and many other tropical and sub-tro products have been grown satisfactorily. At the Pera Bore an a 640 acres has been subdivided into 20-acre blocks, and offered on as irrigation farms; and the experiments in the plantation of and forest trees, date-palms, sugar-cane, cereals, grasses, potatoes, have been so successful that all the blocks but two have been take and good results are being obtained. At the Moongulla Bore a si scheme is also being carried out; and it is intended to extend oper in this direction to the Moree, Woolabrah, Tenandra, and Euroka I There are plantation trial stations now in existence at the N Dog, Barringun, and Belalie Bores, on the road from Bourke to ringun; at the Enngonia Bore, the Coolabah Tank, and the By Tank; at the Waddell Tank, on the road from Bourke to Bye at the Moongulla Bore and the Dungle Ridge Bore, on the road Collarendabri to Angledool; and at the Pera Bore, on the road Bourke to Wanaaring.

The use of artesian water for wool-scouring is now an accompli fact, its suitability being abundantly proved by the operations w have been carried out on a large scale, during the past two seaso Moongulla, 1,600 bales having been scoured there last year.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

The importance attached by the State to the diffusion of agricul knowledge is evidenced by the formation of a special Departme Agriculture. The question of providing technical agricultural educa and establishing a college and model farms in various parts o colony, immediately engaged attention, and a site suitable for a ce establishment was selected at Ham Common, near the town of Richm in the Hawkesbury District, where an area of about 4,000 acres resumed for the purpose. The buildings and furnishings of the Co and Farm, now in their sixth year of existence, were complet January, 1896, and officially opened on the 14th April of the same Accommodation is provided for ninety-six resident students, and du 1896 there was a full roll. Theoretical as well as practical instru is imparted by experts in every branch of agriculture; and experim work is carried on with cereal and other crops; fertilisers are t analyses of soils are made, and the arts of dishorning and speying a with other veterinary surgical practices, are taught. The live attached to the Farm and College during 1896 comprised 35 h 139 bullocks, 228 head of dairy cattle, 207 pigs, and 40 sheep.

cipal operations during the same period are shown in the subjoined ɜment :—

Crop.	Acres.	Yield per Acre.	Crop.	Acres.	Yield per Acre.
ɪ for Grain	8	22¼ bushels.	Oranges (not bearing)	4	....
„ Hay	106	1 ton.	Other Fruit Orchards	19	£7 7s.
for Grain	66	20 bushels.	„ „ (not bearing)	9	....
„ Silage............	154	3 tons.	Grape Vines for Wine	2	....
y for Grain............	6	12 bushels.	„ „ Fruit	8	1 ton.
„ Green Food	15	....	Potatoes	6	4 tons.
ier Grain	31	15 bushels.	Turnips	15	7 tons.
„ Hay	60	1 ton.	Mangold-wurzel	5	8 tons.
me for Hay............	24	¼ ton.	Tobacco	3	20 cwt.
„ Green Food	16	....	Market Garden Produce	6	£16 13s. 4d.
um „	19	....	Peas and Beans (dry)	3	4 bushels.
arian Millet	11	Fed off.	Pumpkins	40	30 cwt.
erries	12	......	Melons	12	60 dozen.
.. ..	28	Fed off...	Cow Pea..	18	Fed off.

ın orchard, 30 acres in extent, and a vineyard, 10 acres in extent, e been planted in connection with the Agricultural College; and cultivation of plants for the expression of scent has also been un. In connection with the dairying industry prosecuted at the m, it may be mentioned that the milk-yield for 1896 was 33,234 ons, the quantities of butter and cheese made being 4,535 lb. and 500 lb. respectively. Besides the practice of general dairy-farming k, instruction is imparted in cheese-making, also in the management breeding of poultry, in the rearing of bees and the preparation ıoney for the market, in the killing and dressing of sheep, in the enter's and the blacksmith's arts, in the construction of fences, and arious mechanical trades.

lesides the experimental farm attached to the Hawkesbury Agricull College and the plantation trial stations at Pera and other artesian its already referred to, the Department has under its direction experital farms at Bomen and Wollongbar, in the Murrumbidgee River and hmond River Districts. The Murrumbidgee, or Bomen, Experimental m has recently been established near the southern town of Wagga gga, and notwithstanding its youth, operations have been pushed well ard. The total area is 2,460 acres, of which 1,200 acres are in ivation, 1,000 acres being devoted to growing cereals, of which 500 s are for seed wheat, the remainder being utilised for caten hay malting barley ; 85 acres to fruit trees and grape vines: and 80 s to forage plants, such as maize, sorghum, millet, barley, rye, oats, pea, roots, grasses, etc. ; while 8 acres are under olive trees ; the aining portion being taken up by irrigation plots, nursery, and rimental plots. The numbers of varieties under experiment are as w :—Fruit, 2,000; wheat, 340; crossbred wheats, 400; and numerous ıeties of oats, barley, sorghum, maize, peas, onions, millet, turnips, r beets, potatoes, pumpkins, melons, and fodder crops of every des-.ion. Quarters for twenty-five students have been erected, as well as cottages for the manager and workmen; also barns, a hay-shed stables. There is no natural water supply, but dams of 6,000, 10 and 40,000 yards capacity have been excavated, and are used for plying water to the irrigation plots. Some thousands of farmers v this farm during 1896. A specialty is made of growing seed w and fruits for drying. During the past season applications received for upwards of 50,000 bushels of seed wheats, being ten the quantity available. The price quoted was 7s. 6d. per b Preparations are being made for dairying and pig-raising on a scale, and also for carrying out feeding trials with cattle, sheep, et

At the experimental farm at Wollongbar, on the road leading Lismore to Ballina, a series of experiments are conducted for the pu of determining the most suitable fodder-plants for culture in this re and many varieties of sugar-cane, some of which have been procured Jamaica, as well as of different semi-tropical and tropical plants fruits, have been planted in order to test their value, and suitability to soil and climate. It is probable that a dairy school also be established at this farm very shortly.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY

E rapid settlement of the colony has, in a great measure, been
due to the fitness of its soil, vegetation, and climate for the suc-
l rearing of the principal species of stock which supply the wants
ilised men, and so largely contribute to the wealth of nations. For
years it was believed that a considerable part of Australia was
unsuitable for stock, and this opinion was fostered by the accounts of
arlier explorers, who reported that the interior of the continent was
desert. These apprehensions, however, were soon dispelled, and the
ent difficulties offered to the successful rearing of stock disappeared
e the energy of the colonists. One thing particularly favoured the
rs: though the number of native animals was very considerable,
rising chiefly marsupials of little commercial utility, there happily
d no large species of carnivora which could seriously interfere
the increase in the flocks.

e beginnings of pastoral enterprise in the colony were very humble.
whole stock of the community which accompanied Captain Phillip
rised only 1 bull, 4 cows, 1 calf, 1 stallion, 3 mares, 3 foals, 29
, 12 pigs, and a few goats; and although the flocks and herds of
ralasia have not sprung from these animals alone, it will be seen
w small a scale the business of stock-raising was first attempted.
ystematic record of the arrival of live stock seems to have been
in the early days of settlement; but it appears that in the period
een Governor Phillip's landing and the year 1800 there were
slight importations, chiefly of sheep from India. It is stated that
e close of the year 1792 the live stock of the colony consisted of
orned cattle (old and young), 11 horses, 105 sheep (which were
quoted at £10 10s. each), and 43 hogs. By 1796 the numbers
largely increased, the colony then possessing 57 horses, 101 cows
cow-calves, 74 bulls and bull-calves, 52 oxen, 1,531 sheep, 1,427
, and 1,869 hogs; a cow being worth £80, a horse, £90; a sheep
e Cape breed, £7 10s.; and a breeding sow, £5. In 1800 there
203 horses, 1,044 cattle, 6,124 sheep, 2,182 goats, and 4,017 hogs;
three years later the number of sheep was set down at 10,157.
825, thirty-seven years after the establishment of the colony,
were 6,142 horses, 134 519 cattle, 237,622 sheep, and 39,006 pigs;

and in 1842, these numbers had increased to 56,585 horses, 8
cattle, 4,804,946 sheep, and 46,086 pigs. As soon as the pro
stock began to exceed the demand for food, the increase becam
rapid, and at the end of the year 1850 the stock of the colony num
13,059,324 sheep, 1,738,965 cattle, 132,437 horses, and 61,631 p

The severance, in 1851, of Victoria, then the fairest province
mother colony, involved a loss of 6,589,923 sheep, 390,923
20,086 horses, and 7,372 pigs; so that at the close of 1851 the
and herds of New South Wales were reduced to 7,396,895
1,375,257 cattle, 116,397 horses, and 65,510 pigs. After the sepa
of Queensland, at the close of 1859, the numbers of each kind
stock within the existing boundaries of the colony were 6,1
sheep, 2,408,586 cattle, 251,497 horses, and 180,662 pigs.
following year these figures showed a considerable decline, bu
account of the effects of the season, and of the large demand
arose for stock for the stations of the new colony; and in 1861
were in New South Wales 5,615,054 sheep, 2,271,923 cattle, 2
horses, and 146,091 pigs. From the numbers just given, the shee
at the end of 1896, increased to 48,318,790, the cattle to 2,2
the horses to 510,636, and the swine to 214,581; while in some
intervening years the numbers have been much greater, the sh
1891 amounting to no less than 61,831,416.

SHEEP.

The suitability of the land discovered in New South Wal
pastoral pursuits was undoubtedly the means of leading the
colony to take its first step on the path of commercial progress;
is not a little surprising at this distance of time to note how st
some of the settlers, in the face of the almost insurmountable dif
of transport which existed a century ago, availed themselves
opportunities at their disposal. The importation of valuable spec
of sheep from England or the Cape of Good Hope prior to the int
tion of steam was at all times attended with great risk, and it freq
happened that many of these costly animals died during the t
voyage; but in spite of all drawbacks, the industry was on the who
cessful, and the flocks and herds of the colonists surely, if at first s
increased and multiplied.

By the year 1795, Captain Macarthur, one of the first promot
sheep-breeding in New South Wales, had accumulated a flock of
which were held in great estimation, and gradually increased in
until, as recorded by an entry in his journal ten years later, the
price of a fat wether had risen to £5. Not satisfied with the
increase of his flocks, Macarthur sought to improve the quality
fleeces, by which means he could see opening before him the pro

wealth, and the prospect of establishing important commercial
ns with Great Britain. With these ends in view, he procured from
pe of Good Hope, at great cost and trouble, a number of superior
and ewes. A happy circumstance occurred which favoured his
rise; for he had the good fortune to secure possession of three
nd five ewes of very fine Spanish breed, which had been presented
King of Spain to the Dutch Government. These animals, out of
of twenty-nine purchased at the Cape, arrived in Sydney in 1797,
ere disposed of to various breeders. With the exception of
thur, however, those who had secured sheep of the superior breed
no attempt to follow up the advantage, being probably amply
d with the larger gains derived from the sale of an increased number
nals. Macarthur, on the other hand, thought little of present profits,
ill less of breeding entirely for human consumption. He atten-
watched the results of crossing his imported rams with the old
and by systematically selecting the finer ewes which were the
ng, for further mingling with the sires, he gradually improved the
and in a few years obtained fleeces of very fine texture which
ith the ready appreciation of English manufacturers. It has been
d that Macarthur was not the first to introduce merino sheep into
lia; but whether this be so or not, there is no doubt that to him
the credit of having been the first to prove that the production of
ol could be made a profitable industry in this colony.

r to the present century the production of the finest wool had been
d chiefly to Spain, and woollen manufactures were necessarily
l on in England upon a somewhat limited scale, which was not likely
rove in face of certain restrictions the operatives endeavoured to
upon their employers. These men, in support of their contention
e woollen trade could not be expanded, on account of the limited
of the raw material, argued that fine wool was obtainable only in
; and it was at this favourable period that Macarthur arrived in
nd with specimens of the wool obtained from his finest sheep,
sively proving the capabilities of Australia as a wool-producing
y. In this way he opened up with English manufacturers a small
which, as Australasian wool rose in public estimation, gradually
ed until it reached its present enormous dimensions. During his
England, Macarthur purchased an additional stock of ten rams
wes of the noted Spanish breed, nearly equal in quality to those
in 1797 he had procured from the Cape of Good Hope. That
animals were the finest obtainable in Europe may be gathered from
t that they had formed portion of a present from the King of
to George III. Thus did Macarthur, after his return to New South
, patiently continue for many years the process of selection, with
uccess that in 1858, when his flock was finally dispersed, it was
ted that his superior ewes numbered fully 1,000. Victoria secured
iderable portion of Macarthur's flock, and the process of breeding
ded simultaneously in that and other adjacent colonies.

Although the increase in the numbers of the finer sheep w
factory, yet the importation of superior animals was not discontin
the stock of the colonies was augmented in 1823 and 1825 by the
introduction of Spanish sheep. Sheep-breeding was about thi
commenced in the Mudgee district, and the climate of that reg
produced a still more favourable effect upon the quality of th
than any other part of the colony, and it is thence that th
merinos are now procured. As might have been anticipated, the
of Australia has in some respects changed the character of the
fleece. The wool has become softer and more elastic, and while
diminished in density it has increased in length, so that the w
the fleece has only slightly altered. The quality of the wool
on the whole improved under the beneficial influence of the
and if no further enhancement in its value can be reasonably ho
there is at least every reason to believe that Australasian w
maintain its present high standard of excellence.

The following table, showing the number at the close of ea
since the separation of Queensland, illustrates the progress o
breeding:—

Year.	Sheep.	Year.	Sheep.	Year.	Shee
	No.		No.		N
1860	6,119,163	1873	18,990,595	1886	39,16
1861	5,615,054	1874	22,797,416	1887	46,96
1862	6,145,651	1875	25,353,924	1888	46,50
1863	7,790,969	1876	25,269,755	1889	50,10
1864	8,271,520	1877	21,521,662	1890	55,9
1865	8,132,511	1878	25,479,484	1891	61,83
1866	11,562,155	1879	30,062,910	1892	58,08
1867	13,909,574	1880	35,398,121	1893	56,98
1868	15,080,625	1881	36,591,946	1894	56,97
1869	14,989,923	1882	36,114,814	1895	47,61
1870	16,308,585	1883	37,915,510	1896	48,31
1871	16,278,697	1884	31,660,321		
1872	17,566,048	1885	37,820,906		

The ratio of annual increase for the whole period is 5·91 p
Divided into four periods the ratios are—

1860-70	annual	increase	10·3	per cent.
1870-80	,,	,,	8·1	,,
1880-90	,,	,,	4·7	,,
1890-96	,,	decrease	2·4	,,

The operation of the natural law regulating the increase of
viz., that the ratio of increase is inversely as the increase in the
of individuals, is observable in these figures, and the tendency
rate of increase to decline as the numbers advance is clear

lering the unimproved condition of the pasturage over a great n of the colony, it was apparent in 1891 that the colony was ocked, and graziers restricted the natural increase of their flocks t putting to the rams a large number of ewes, especially those that old or inferior in quality. Numbers of sheep were, moreover, l down for tallow and killed for export in a frozen state, so that ly was the increase of flocks arrested, but the year 1894 showed ing-off of nearly five million sheep as compared with 1891, while in there was a further decline of nearly nine and a half millions, of the drought was responsible for five millions. In 1896, despite ss of nearly a million and a half sheep through the effects of the t, there was an increase in the flocks of over 700,000. During resent year, 1897, the drought has caused a heavy mortality, which mated by the Stock Department at over eight million sheep and .

number of persons owning sheep at the end of 1896 was 13,653. ollowing is an approximate classification of the holdings of these ns :—

Number of Sheep-owners.	Ranging—		Number of Sheep owned.
	From	To	
5,897	1	500	927,720
2,287	501	1,000	1,502,714
2,026	1,001	2,000	2,585,054
1,638	2,001	5,000	4,464,654
713	5,001	10,000	4,339,026
401	10,001	20,000	5,803,084
475	20,001	50,000	12,828,633
149	50,001	100,000	8,789,185
67	100,001	and over.	7,078,720
Total, 13,653	....	....	48,318,790

following table shows the loss which may be attributed to the , being the number which the actual increase in each year fell of what might reasonably have been expected in a fair season. f the twenty-three years over which the information extends, nine only showed no loss, or loss so slight as to be inappreciable. On her hand, nine seasons of opposite character were experienced, in not only was there no increase, but an actual decrease on the er of the previous year ; in five years there was a relative increase he previous year's totals, but an actual loss of sheep from drought. ng to the table, it will be seen that in 1884 the loss of sheep reached the enormous total of 8,138,000, a number larger even t total of the flocks in some of the colonies of the group. The los year 1892 was 4,190,120, due chiefly to drought in the western regions. In 1895 there was again a loss of no fewe 4,913,300 by drought, which was general throughout the colony in the following year, 1,457,800 sheep were lost through the sea

Year.	Expected increase, allowing for all causes of natural decrease.	Actual increase or decrease.	Loss through Seasons.	Year.	Expected increase, allowing for all causes of natural decrease.	Actual increase or decrease.	
	No.	No.	No.		No.	No.	
1874	3,807,000	3,807,000	†	1886	3,409,000	1,348,000	2
1875	2,556,000	2,556,000	†	1887	7,796,000	7,796,000	
1876	1,915,000	* 84,000	1,999,000	1888	2,435,000	*462,000	2
1877	1,802,000	*3,748,000	5,550,000	1889	5,339,000	3,603,000	1
1878	3,958,000	3,958,000	†	1890	5,880,000	5,880,000	
1879	4,583,000	4,583,000	†	1891	5,845,000	5,845,000	
1880	5,335,000	5,335,000	†	1892	439,120	*3,751,000	4
1881	2,947,000	1,194,000	1,753,000	1893	‡488,926	*1,099,426	
1882	1,797,000	* 477,000	2,274,000	1894	672,282	*3,418	
1883	3,193,000	1,801,000	1,392,000	1895	‡4,446,260	*9,359,560	4
1884	1,883,000	*6,255,000	8,138,000	1896	2,158,900	701,100	1,
1885	6,160,000	6,160,000	†				

* Decrease during the year. † No loss, or, if any, very slight. ‡ Expected dec

After allowing for the causes which naturally impede the i in the flocks of the colony, the demands of the slaughter-ya requirements of the neighbouring colonies, and the deaths oc from other causes than drought, it will be found that the annual increase may be as high as 20 per cent., so that it sible for the flocks of the colony to increase two-fold in abo years. Actual experience shows that such rate of increase h been approached once since the year 1861. During the period years from 1861 to 1866 there was a two-fold increase; the f the colony were again doubled in the eight years from 1866 t and in the thirteen years from 1874 to 1887. How many shee be sustained by the colony under a system of artificial feedi watering may hereafter become a question of national interest; l abundantly plain that even with a continuation of fair seasons i be impossible, under the present mode of despasturing stock, colony to support for any number of years an increase of sheep to the record of 1891, as in nine years' time the flocks would i from 48,318,790 to 118,000,000—a total larger than that now f all Australasia.

The export and import of sheep during the ten years, 188 shown in the following table. The figures are for several yea what in excess of the truth, as sheep are often crossed from on another for the convenience of station-holders, or in search of grass, nd not for purposes of trade :—

Year.	Exported.	Imported.	Year.	Exported.	Imported.
	No.	No.		No.	No.
1887	1,218,504	864,313	1892	1,583,666	520,660
1888	2,327,406	254,018	1893	933,012	1,017,252
1889	1,217,325	832,565	1894	905,783	530,664
1890	2,987,902	598,077	1895	999,773	420,374
1891	1,615,964	663,044	1896	744,578	1,010,176

The local demand for sheep for consumption was until recent years o small compared with the supply as not to appreciably affect the in-crease of the flocks of the colony. This, however, is not now the case, nd the annual demand for slaughtering purposes is about 6 per cent. f the number of sheep depastured, and is, therefore, equal to three-venths of the annual cast.

The stock-carrying capabilities of the colony are very difficult to esti-mate, as by far the greater portion of the country is yet in its natural tate. Improvements, such as a better system of water conservation and rigation, an intelligent extension of the salt-bush, cotton-bush, and ther drought-resisting shrubs and natural grasses, and the cultivation of tificial fodder, are gradually being effected, and will indefinitely extend capacity of the colony for supporting stock of all descriptions.

The following table gives the number of sheep in the Australasian nies at the end of 1896, and the proportion owned by each colony :—

Colony.	Sheep.	Proportion of Sheep owned in each Colony.
	No.	per cent.
New South Wales	48,318,790	43·72
Victoria	13,180,943	11·93
Queensland	19,593,696	17·73
South Australia	6,402,593	5·79
Western Australia	2,248,976	2·03
Tasmania	1,640,567	1·48
New Zealand	19,138,493	17·32
Australasia	110,524,058	100·00

t will be seen that New South Wales stands first of all the colonies sheep-breeding country. But whilst Victoria has nearly reached limit of its natural capabilities in this particular direction, nsiderable proportion of its area being now devoted to agri-ure, New South Wales has not yet approached that limit. In ensland, as in South Australia, sheep-breeding does not absorb attention of pastoralists to the same extent that it does in

New South Wales. The former colony is more adapted to the
of cattle; whilst in the southern and more settled districts
Australia greater attention is paid to the cultivation of ca
northern territory, like that of Queensland, being more ada
nature to the breeding of cattle and horses. Western Austral
present in the early stage of its colonisation; much of its are
unknown, and it is therefore impossible to estimate its futu
sheep-breeding country. It may, however, be surmised that the
portion of its immense territory will, in time to come, be stoc
sheep, whilst the northern portion will probably be found more
for the breeding of cattle and horses, on account of its resemb
portions of Queensland and the northern territory of South
situated under the same latitude. It was thought at one ti
cattle-breeding would occupy a position in New South Wales
that of sheep-breeding, but experience has shown that the
climatic conditions are more favourable to sheep than to cattle,
colony is probably destined to remain as it now is—the grea
breeding centre of Australia.

The different degrees of success attending sheep farming in
parts of the country have long since directed attention to the
each part of Australia is not equally fitted for the productio
wools. New South Wales may be divided climatically into four
(1) The coast country extending from the seaboard to the mai
the breadth of which varies from 20 to 100 miles; (2) the
districts on the summit of the range; (3) the upper part of the
slopes; and (4) the interior, or "salt-bush country."

The climate of the eastern seaboard for a considerable distanc
is too moist, and a large portion of it too poor, for the adequate su
of merinos, but it is probable that the coarser breeds of sheep w
deteriorate through the limited food supply and the rugged natu
country. On the Hunter and other northern rivers, and in the
coast districts, where the soil is very rich, dairy-farming and ag
are the leading, and, no doubt, the most profitable industries.
breeding is carried on to some extent in the regions towards the
of the coast range; but, as in the case of the country near the
soil as a rule is unfavourable to sheep. On crossing the coa
however, the contrast between the aspect of the country just
and that left behind is very striking. Here the grazing a
growing capabilities are at once apparent, and farther to the
a still greater improvement is visible.

In the abundant pastures of the Riverine districts the wool is
than in the country immediately west of the table-lands, but th
are generally sound and heavy. Farther in the salt-bush co
wool suffers both in the weight of the fleece and in its quality;
country is fattening, and the stock are generally more healthy th
nearer the sea. In the country on the further side of the D
great summer heat is adverse to the production of heavy fleeces;

air class of wool is produced, as the stock-owners are constantly
cing fresh blood, and so counteracting the tendency towards the
ation of the breed of sheep which otherwise might ensue.

mportation of stud sheep from foreign countries, notably France,
y, and America, which was continued for many years after the
e quality of Australian wool had been established in the markets
orld, practically ceased even before importation was legally pro-
; for it had become apparent that the fleece, instead of showing
f deterioration under the influence of the climate, had, on the
a tendency to improve. The introduction of sheep and cattle
w South Wales was forbidden for many years, owing entirely to
r of the stock-owners that their herds might be contaminated by
d other diseases prevalent in European flocks; but these restric-
ere removed at the beginning of the year 1888, and there is now
ort of pure-bred sheep from the United Kingdom, the United
France, and Germany. So far, the breed imported has been
the merino; but Lincoln, South Down, Shropshire, and other
own breeds have been introduced. In the course of the year
the stud sheep imported from the other Australasian colonies
ed 9,724; while 2 stud rams and 10 ewes were introduced from
d, 16 rams and three ewes from Germany, 1 ram from France,
rams from America. The breeds of the sheep brought from
were the Shropshire, Merino, and Vermont Merino.

now generally admitted that, as far as the fleece is concerned,
stralian merino has little to gain by any further admixture of
an or American blood, but it is equally admitted that there is
r improvement in the physique of the animal. To produce a
carcase, without interfering with the quality of the fleece, many
ents have been made, but without much success, and it has been
that the crossing of noted breeds of English rams with Australian
s invariably resulted, after a generation or two, in a deterioration
merino. The breeding of sheep for consumption, and for the
f the wool, has, therefore, developed naturally into two distinct
f industry. It may here be mentioned that the carcase of the
y Australian merino, when dressed, averages about 46½ lb., whereas
carcases of the Lincoln or Leicester breed would average 57 to
The food qualities of the merino are not appreciated in the
market, and its lean flanks and long fleshless leg bones make
arance objectionable to the butcher, with the result that the
ed prospects of export have induced growers to introduce large
for cross-breeding, in order to secure a heavier and more pre-
e carcase. It remains yet to be seen, however, how far the
and climate of the country hitherto devoted to the merino are
to the more gross-feeding cross-breed.

various breeds of sheep in the colony are the Merino, Lincoln,
er, Downs, and Romney Marsh, and crosses of the long-woolled
, principally with the merino. At the close of 1896 the respective

numbers of merino and long-woolled sheep and cross-breeds thus:—

Merino	44,260,503
Long-woolled sheep	1,279,180
Cross-breeds	2,779,107
Total	48,318,790

During the last two years the English and cross-bred shee increased by one million, while the merinos have decreased in n from 54,070,781 to 44,260,503. Following is a classification sheep in the colony at the end of 1896 :—

Merino—			
Combing—			
Pure and stud—Superfine	1,584,471		
Ordinary	5,057,351		
		6,641,822	
Pure and stud—Medium	2,476,341		
Ordinary	12,699,926		
		15,176,267	
Pure and stud—Strong	2,700,078		
Ordinary	8,564,929		
		11,265,007	
Total Combing			33,
Clothing—			
Pure and stud—Superfine	461,068		
Ordinary	926,414		
		1,387,482	
Pure and stud—Medium	725,707		
Ordinary	5,493,268		
		6,218,975	
Pure and stud—Strong	967,894		
Ordinary	2,603,056		
		3,570,950	
Total Clothing			11,1
Total Merino			44,2
Long-woolled—			
Pure and stud—Lincoln	235,439		
Ordinary	425,342		
		660,781	
Pure and stud—Leicester	239,078		
Ordinary	336,510		
		575,588	
Pure and stud—Southdowns	4,816		
Ordinary	8,994		
		13,810	
Pure and stud—Shropshire Downs	6,870		
Ordinary	11,387		
		18,257	
Pure and stud—Hampshire Downs	....	40	
Pure and stud—Romney Marsh	8,211		
Ordinary	2,487		
		10,698	
Pure and stud—Cotswold	....	4	
Pure and stud—Cheviot	....	1	
Pure and stud—Dorset Horn	....	1	
Total Long-woolled			1,
Crosses—			
Long-woolled with Merino principally			2,7
Grand Total			48,

sexes and classes of sheep at the end of 1896 were estimated as s :—

Rams	659,252
Ewes	23,033,676
Wethers	15,882,894
Lambs	8,742,968
Total	48,318,790

climate of New South Wales admits of stock of all kinds being the open air, and there is no necessity for housing them during ater months. The sheep are either kept in paddocks or under the shepherds, though on some stations they are both shepherded and ked. At the end of 1896 there were :—

Paddocked	47,607,441
Shepherded	258,382
Paddocked and shepherded	452,967
Total	48,318,790

advantages of the paddocking system are now universally recog- the country will carry one-third more sheep; the wool will be and sounder, and the fleece as a whole one-third better; the feed cleaner and less liable to grass-seed; the sheep will increase in hey will live longer and continue longer profitable; they will be from foot-rot and other diseases; the expense of working the will be less than a quarter of what it would be if the sheep were rded; and finally, the owner will be able to devote the principal f his time to improving his sheep, instead of spending it in ting to manage a number of shepherds and hut-keepers.

as also been found that the percentage of lambing is higher among cked than shepherded sheep. The percentage of lambs obtained from es in Australia is, however, far lower than that experienced in the d Kingdom, where the ratio on account of twin lambs has been to exceed 160 per cent., and over a series of years, amongst the flocks, considerably exceed 130 per cent. This result is doubt- ue to the much greater care and attention bestowed on English at the lambing season.

ing the year 1896, the lambs marked in New South Wales red 10,609,209. In his annual report, the Chief Inspector of states that the number of ewes put to the ram was 16,658,958, would give an average lambing of 63·68 per cent.

year 1895 closed with a total of 47,617,687 sheep; the increase bing during the season was 10,609,209; and 1,010,176 sheep were imported. Excluding sheep killed on stations and farms, 1,827,999 were slaughtered for food for local consumption during the year; 1,159,945 were killed for food on stations; 940,676 were taken by the meat-preserving works; 1,372,373 were frozen for export; while 523,279 were boiled down for tallow at boiling-down works, and 133,819 were similarly treated on stations. In addition to the above, 119,329 lambs were killed for local food consumption, bringing the total number slaughtered during the year to 6,077,420. During the year 744,578 live sheep were exported; 257,590 were killed by dogs; and 3,838,694 were lost or may be attributed to ordinary mortality. The decrease from all causes amounted, therefore, to 10,918,282, leaving the number of sheep on 31st December, 1896, at 48,318,790, or an increase of 701,103 on the number depastured at the end of the previous year. The mortality set down above, viz., 3,838,694, is 8·06 per cent. of the total flocks depastured. The normal death-rate of sheep is 5 per cent.

WOOL.

The quantity of wool, the produce of New South Wales, exported during 1870 and subsequent periods ending with 1896, is given in the subjoined table. A large proportion of the clip is exported to Europe, *via* the adjacent colonies, as already alluded to in the chapter on Commerce. During 1870 nearly 46 per cent. of New South Wales wool was shipped from ports outside the colony, but in 1896 the proportion had declined to about 28 per cent. The weights given are on the assumption that all the wool was shipped in grease:—

Year.	N. S. Wales ports.	Victorian ports.	S. Australian ports.	Queensland ports.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1870	34,608,600	20,411,889	8,787,126	....	63,807,615
1875	48,635,622	55,305,262	9,184,725	150,000	113,275,609
1880	99,011,710	63,367,669	11,298,297	404,598	174,082,274
1885	132,539,441	45,311,695	8,215,265	387,986	186,454,387
1886	122,901,992	48,597,092	22,923,412	297,037	194,719,533
1887	159,704,606	58,687,888	21,718,339	112,762	240,223,595
1888	188,990,931	59,155,698	8,121,721	28,839	256,297,189
1889	183,881,857	74,857,400	25,372,201	126,804	284,238,262
1890	168,836,103	70,808,013	17,475,612	55,104	257,174,832
1891	255,204,601	81,689,892	19,731,728	470,733	357,096,954
1892	241,963,380	78,382,868	15,501,210	771,204	336,618,662
1893	247,734,888	76,883,635	18,396,368	979,400	343,994,291
1894	264,872,092	73,427,131	19,121,856	715,917	358,136,996
1895	244,437,310	63,661,684	14,540,735	625,916	323,265,645
1896	211,802,106	63,794,830	20,192,922	464,590	296,254

proportion of the total clip reaching New South Wales ports red with that which was despatched by way of Melbourne, ide, and Brisbane, was :—

Shipped from New South Wales ports.	Shipped from other Australian ports.	Year.	Shipped from New South Wales ports.	Shipped from other Australian ports.
per cent.	per cent.		per cent.	per cent.
54·2	45·8	1890	65·6	34·4
42·9	57·1	1891	71·5	28·5
56·9	43·1	1892	71·9	28·1
71·1	28·9	1893	72·0	28·0
63·1	36·9	1894	73·9	26·1
66·5	33·5	1895	75·6	24·4
73·7	26·3	1896	71·5	28·5
64·7	35·3			

the season for exporting wool does not wholly fall within the dar year, the quantity of wool stated in the table on page 384 ny year consists partly of that season's clip and partly of the ous one. The following table shows the total number of sheep during the year, distinguishing those whose fleece was washed ous to shearing. It will be observed that most of the sheep are in grease. This was not always the case; at one time nearly the sheep were washed before being shorn. Several circumstances led to the change, the principal being that the price obtained for ed wool in excess of greasy is not commensurate with the cost of ing :—

Sheep.				Lambs.	
In grease.	H.-W. and Spout.	Creek-washed.	Scoured.	In grease.	Washed.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
25,298,211	1,015,556	6,164,859	2,660,141	*	*
28,324,595	38,000	642,424	267,250	4,113,383	42,584
40,935,736	....	1,271,712	580,794	9,285,871	33,521
45,619,967	....	426,201	1,093,886	10,531,106	31,542
46,947,809	....	154,503	1,262,163	7,105,210	132,503
45,348,757	....	81,169	1,007,549	7,482,936	169,698
42,632,425	100,000	88,686	3,001,835	7,948,101	463,950
38,925,708	....	23,006	1,857,663	4,731,387	147,893
37,409,296	....	2,793	2,193,011	5,857,382	535,101

* Not recorded.

The average weight of fleece obtained during the ten years 1896 from sheep shorn in grease was 5 lb. 12 oz., while creek- yielded 3 lb. 2 oz., and scoured 3 lb. 3 oz. During the same lambs' fleeces averaged 1 lb. 14 oz. in grease, and 1 lb. 6 oz. washed. Although the number of sheep shorn last season was than in the preceding year, the average weight of fleece was This was owing to the season throughout the colony being fairly The great improvement in the weight of the fleece during th twenty years may be seen from the table given below; and in tion with this matter, it may be pointed out that sheep-owners until recently were unable to secure good blood have been enabl consequence of the low prices ruling at the annual sales during few years, to improve their flocks by the acquisition of superior rams:—

Year.	Estimated Average Weight of Fleece from Sheep shorn—				Year.	Estimated Average Wei Fleece from Sheep sho			
	In the grease.		Scoured.			In the grease.		Sco	
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.	lb.	
1877	4	0	......	......	1887	5	9	2	
1878	5	0	2	4½	1888	5	6½	2	
1879	5	1	2	10	1889	5	12½	2	
1880	5	7	2	9½	1890	5	12½	3	
1881	5	0	2	8½	1891	5	9	3	
1882	5	0	2	9½	1892	5	6	3	
1883	5	2	2	12	1893	5	15	3	
1884	5	0	2	14	1894	6	1½	3	
1885	5	7½	3	0	1895	5	11½	3	
1886	5	5½	2	14	1896	6	4	3	

Wool is put up at the stations in packs of various sizes from 4 ft. by 2 ft. 2 in. to 5 ft. 3 in., weighing from 10 lb. to 12 lb. On forty holdings the bales are "dumped" in a hydraulic press before lea and thus reduced to less than half their original length. A ba greasy wool averages about 390 lb. in weight, and a bale of washed about 280 lb.

VALUE OF THE WOOL CLIP.

The wool clip of Australasia is its most important item of produ and it may be said that the prosperity of the colonies in a large me depends upon the state of the wool market. The following tab marises the state of the export trade in New South Wales wool the period 1860-96, and illustrates the growth of that important during thirty-seven years, whilst at the same time the fluctuations of the clip may be easily followed. The weights given represent ctual exports, washed and greasy wool being taken together :—

ar.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb.	£		lb.	£
60	14,962,362	1,454,289	1879	123,710,450	6,491,198
61	18,171,209	1,768,978	1880	154,871,832	8,040,625
62	20,988,393	1,801,186	1881	139,601,506	7,149,787
63	15,842,520	1,316,520	1882	146,221,182	7,433,091
64	25,827,917	2,294,615	1883	188,161,710	9,598,761
65	29,858,791	2,283,560	1884	173,986,303	8,953,100
66	36,980,685	2,830,348	1885	168,151,659	7,246,642
67	27,327,452	2,125,737	1886	173,985,640	7,028,596
68	27,067,256	1,960,360	1887	216,450,342	8,911,155
69	51,269,672	3,162,522	1888	235,848,944	9,089,776
70	47,440,610	2,741,141	1889	261,853,484	10,620,636
71	65,611,953	4,748,160	1890	236,322,828	8,991,396
72	50,233,453	3,342,900	1891	331,887,720	11,036,018
73	62,998,692	3,936,408	1892	312,225,293	10,211,456
74	75,156,924	5,010,125	1893	318,782,858	9,675,061
75	87,534,280	5,651,643	1894	331,774,424	9,011,790
76	100,736,330	5,565,173	1895	297,448,104	8,958,690
77	102,150,246	5,256,038	1896	272,033,262	8,776,529
78	111,833,017	5,723,316			

n examination of the preceding figures at once shows how greatly luctuations in the value of the staple article of export affect the nal prosperity. For instance, the exports for the years 1884 and , which may be taken as practically equal in quantity, represented lue of £8,953,100 in the former year, and of only £7,028,600 in atter year. Again, comparing 1883 with 1894, there was a differ- in quantity in favour of the latter year of 143,612,714 lb., and had rices of 1883 been obtained the value of the 1894 clip would have ded that of the former year by £7,272,400, whereas there was an l decrease to the amount of £586,971. In 1896, however, there a rise in price, and the value of the exports in that year was 76,529 instead of £7,389,837, which the quantity shipped would represented at the average price of 1894. As explained in a former of this work, the general strike of 1890 had a very marked effect he wool trade of the succeeding year. In some cases the sheep remained unshorn until long after the usual time, and in many o the wool did not leave the stations until the close of the year, so a considerable portion of the clip of 1890 was of necessity held over export in the succeeding year.

The preceding table also shows that, although during the period examination the value of wool has greatly fluctuated from one yea another, the tendency to a settled diminution of price is unfortun too clearly discernible. At one time almost all the wool used t shipped on grower's account and sold in London, but of late years proportion sold in the local markets has very largely increased, European purchasers are realising the advantages of buying on the The increasing importance of the Sydney wool sales will be me from the following figures:—

Season.	Total deep-sea exports from Sydney and Newcastle.	Sydney Wool Sales.		
		Offered.	Sold.	Proportion of deep-sea exp sold in Sydne
	bales.	bales.	bales.	per cent.
1887-88	396,772	227,466	162,511	40·96
1888-89	450,095	268,264	209,252	46·49
1889-90	465,835	268,790	234,419	50·32
1890-91	566,680	333,876	251,314	44·35
1891-92	630,115	361,880	278,304	44·17
1892-93	637,758	398,010	362,365	56·82
1893-94	719,620	452,571	401,830	55·84
1894-95	755,769	488,509	425,135	56·25
1895-96	683,001	441,437	415,538	60·84
1896-97	690,034	437,284	401,138	58·13

Of the 401,000 bales of wool sold in Sydney during the last seaso it may be said that approximately 272,000 bales were purchased for t Continent of Europe, 75,000 bales for the English trade and for Lond on speculative account, 15,000 bales for America, 1,400 bales for Jap and India, and 37,600 bales by local scourers. The average prices p bale realised in Sydney during the last three years were £8 10s. 1894-5, £10 2s. 6d. in 1895-6, and £10 5s. in 1896-7: while in t London market an average of £11 10s. was obtained in 1894, of £11 1895, and of £12 in 1896. The higher prices averaged in London partly accounted for by the quantity of wool, such as locks, pieces, sold at low rates in Sydney, and scoured prior to shipment.

prices realised for the different descriptions of wool at the Sydney ales during the last two seasons are given below :—

tion.	Superior.		Good.		Medium.		Inferior.	
	1895–6.	1896–7.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1895–6.	1896–7.
–	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d
..	8½ to 11½	8½ to 11¾	8¼ to 10	7¼ to 8¼	7¼ to 8	6¼ to 7	5¾ to 7	4¾ to 6
..	7½ „ 8¼	7 „ 8¼	6¼ „ 7½	6 „ 6¾	4¾ „ 6	5 „ 5¾	4 „ 4½	3½ „ 4¾
..	5¾ „ 6¾	5½ „ 6½	4¾ „ 5½	4½ „ 5¼	3¾ „ 4½	3¾ „ 4¼	3 „ 3½	2¾ „ 3½
..	9 „ 9½	8 „ 11¼	6¾ „ 8¾	7¼ „ 7¾	5½ „ 6¼	5½ „ 7	4¼ „ 5¼	3¾ „ 5½
red..	8¾ „ 10½	8¼ „ 10½	7¾ „ 8½	7¼ „ 8	6¼ „ 7½	6¼ „ 7	5½ „ 6	5 „ 6
—								
..	16¾ „ 18¼	14¾ „ 16½	14¾ „ 16½	13¼ „ 14½	12¾ „ 14½	12 „ 13	10¾ „ 12¼	10¾ „ 11¾
..	15 „ 15¾	11¾ „ 13½	12¼ „ 14¾	10¾ „ 11½	10 „ 12	9 „ 10½	7¾ „ 9¾	8 „ 8¾
..	13½ „ 14	10¾ „ 13¼	11 „ 13	9¾ „ 10½	9¾ „ 10¾	8¾ „ 9½	7 „ 9¼	7 „ 8½
..	9 „ 10¼	8¼ „ 11¼	7¾ „ 8¾	7¼ „ 8	6½ „ 7½	6½ „ 7	5¼ „ 6¼	5¼ „ 6¼
—								
..	10 „ 11	......	10 „ 11½	9 „ 9¾	9 „ 9¾	....	7¾ „ 8¾	....

order to illustrate the fluctuations in the value of this staple during st sixteen years, the following table will give a fairly correct idea average value realised for greasy wool in the London market. The given were those ruling at the five principal sales of each year 1894, and at the six sales in 1894, 1895, and 1896 :—

ales.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
ies	10½	10½	10	9½	9	7½	10¼	8
, ...	11	10½	10	9½	8½	6	10	8
, ...	11¼	10	9	9½	8	8	9	8
, ...	10½	10	9½	10	7	11	8¼	8½
, ...	10½	10	10	9½	7½	10	7½	8¾.

ales.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
ies	9	10½	9	7¼	8	6⅞	6	8¾
, ...	9½	10	10	8	8½	6⅝	6½	9¼
, ...	10	9	9½	7½	7⅞	6¼	6¼	8½
, ...	10½	10	9	7½	8¼	6⅝	7¼	8¼
, ...	11¼	9	8½	8	7	6¼	8½	7¾
, ...	......	......	......	......	......	6	8½	8¼

ing the period covered by the foregoing table, Sydney-shipped wool realised from 11¼d. to 6d. The maximum prices were realised 1881, when the sales opened at 10½d. per lb. Prices were fairly

well maintained until 1883, but they began then to decline rapidl
the lowest market was reached in the second series of 1886, when
wool realised as little as 6d. per lb.; at the end of that year, ho
the prices had considerably advanced, greasy wool selling at 10d.
prices have been exceeded only once since, which was at the De
sales of 1889, when the price obtained for greasy was 11¼d. Sinc
the price of greasy wool has ranged from 10¼d. at the beginning o
year to 6¼d. at the third and fifth series of 1894. The first sales of
opened at 8¾d., but this price was eclipsed at the next series, whe
was realised. There was considerable fluctuation in the course o
year, the sales ultimately closing at 8¼d.

Prices in 1895 and 1896 were a satisfactory advance on those of
and as the effects of the drought make themselves felt it is l
probable that wool-growers will be compensated to some exte
their recent losses. Stocks in Europe are light, and with a prosp
shortage in the Australasian clip, prices should continue to rise.
only unfavourable factor is the new tariff of the United States, b
may be that trade will be better after the tariff question has been f
settled than during the long period of uncertainty.

There is no cause to view unfavourably the further extensi
the production of wool in these colonies. In the ancient se
wool-growing, production is now stationary, and in some of the
recently devoted to this industry, many causes, both climati
otherwise, are likely to offer serious checks to its extension, while
lation, with the consequent demand for wool, is everywhere increa
The wool supplies of the world have of late years shown no ma
increase, and there are no signs of an increase of production i
near future; for any advance in the quantity of wool available
Australia after the passing away of the effects of the recent droug
from the River Plate, will probably be more than counterbalanced
restricted production in Great Britain, North America, and the
tinent of Europe. The establishment of a market for Australian
in Japan is now claiming attention, and it is not too much to e
that the shipments to Eastern countries will show a satisfactory in
in the early future.

It is a moot question whether the climate of New South Wa
better adapted to the production of a combing than a clothing
Although the former is looked upon with most favour by wool-gr
it is generally recognised that there are very large tracts of co
especially where the salt-bush predominates, on which it is diffic
raise a good combing wool, and where it will probably be found
profitable by wool-growers to give greater attention to the culti
of the clothing variety.

The breeding of coarse-woolled sheep for the market is incre
with a view to the extension of the frozen-meat industry of the
The stock raised for this purpose are principally of the Leicest
Lincoln breeds, the latter being perhaps the greater favourite

producer of fat lambs. The English sheep has the advantage of a heavier carcase, and there is no doubt that it is preferred in the home market to the merino, the appearance of which is against its popularity.

The quantity and value of wool, the produce of each of the various colonies of Australasia, exported during the year 1896, will be found hereunder. The weights given are on the assumption that all the wool was shipped in grease:—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb.	£
New South Wales	296,560,076	8,810,375
Victoria	68,621,389	2,688,908
Queensland	100,732,119	2,976,984
South Australia	47,811,550	1,290,994
Western Australia	11,461,346	267,506
Tasmania	8,802,583	290,825
New Zealand	143,419,032	4,391,575
Australasia	677,408,095	20,627,167

The figures represent the net exports of the various colonies, and those given for New South Wales are therefore slightly different from the figures given on page 384, which show the exports of domestic produce as per Customs returns.

CATTLE.

Though still a most important industry, cattle-rearing does not now occupy so prominent a place as formerly. The number of horned cattle returned at the end of each year since 1861 is shown in the subjoined table. It will be noticed that there was a great decline in the total from 1875 to 1885, but that the number steadily increased from 1885 to 1895, when, in consequence chiefly of the general drought, it fell to 2,150,057 from 2,465,411 in 1894. In 1896, however, there was an increase of 76,106 over the previous year:—

Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.
	No.		No.		No.
1861	2,271,923	1873	2,794,327	1885	1,317,315
1862	2,620,383	1874	2,856,699	1886	1,367,844
1863	2,032,522	1875	3,134,086	1887	1,575,487
1864	1,924,119	1876	3,131,013	1888	1,622,907
1865	1,961,905	1877	2,746,385	1889	1,741,592
1866	1,771,809	1878	2,771,583	1890	2,091,229
1867	1,728,427	1879	2,914,210	1891	2,128,838
1868	1,761,411	1880	2,580,040	1892	2,221,459
1869	1,795,904	1881	2,597,348	1893	2,269,852
1870	2,195,096	1882	1,859,985	1894	2,465,411
1871	2,014,888	1883	1,640,753	1895	2,150,057
1872	2,287,660	1884	1,425,130	1896	2,226,163

If the above figures be compared with the returns of sheep for the period, it will be found that the change which has taken place in the of stock has been most remarkable. It is very debatable whether substitution of sheep for cattle will in the end prove advantageous to State, though there does not appear to be any doubt that sheep-bree is at present more profitable to the individual owner. The increase the number of cattle depastured in the colony during 1896 was 76,10 but compared with 1875 there was a decrease of 907,923. It wo seem from these figures that the lowest point in cattle-raising was reach in 1885, the result, no doubt, of continued bad seasons. Since th the improvement has been gradual, and, even if small, it may be tak as evidence of the disposition of the pastoralists in some parts of t colony to revert to cattle-breeding in place of sheep.

An exact statement of the loss of cattle from disease and failure water and grass can be made for fourteen years. Of these years, six m be considered as having been favourable to stock, and five disastro while in the other three years the losses have not been large. T following table shows the number of cattle lost through unpropitio seasons or disease. The cause of most of the losses was failure of gr and water; but in some years, notably 1890, the stockholders suffe greatly by the prevalence of the opposite condition of too much ra inducing various forms of disease fatal to stock:—

Year.	Expected Increase, allowing for all causes of natural decrease.	Actual Increase or Decrease.	Loss through Seas
	No.	No.	No.
1883	114,900	*219,200	334,100
1884	64,100	*215,600	279,700
1885	30,600	*107,800	138,400
1886	66,800	50,500	16,300
1887	207,600	207,600	†
1888	82,600	47,400	35,200
1889	118,700	118,700	†
1890	299,500	167,400	132,100
1891	137,300	137,300	†
1892	100,727	100,727	†
1893	92,493	48,393	44,100
1894	195,559	195,559	†
1895	‡150,113	*315,354	165,241
1896	76,106	76,106	†

* Decrease during the year. † No loss, or, if any, very slight. ‡ Expected decrease.

The principal breeds of cattle now in the colony are the Durham or rthorns, Hereford, Devon, Black-polled, Ayrshire, Alderney, Jersey, crosses from these various breeds. At the close of the year 1896 numbers of each breed, as far as could be ascertained, were :—

Shorthorns—		
Pure and stud	60,596	
Ordinary	653,966	
		714,562
Hereford—		
Pure and stud	28,633	
Ordinary	213,049	
		241,682
Devon—		
Pure and stud	11,783	
Ordinary	64,922	
		76,705
Black-polled—		
Pure and stud	954	
Ordinary	3,898	
		4,852
Red-polled—		
Pure and stud	53	
Ordinary	1	
		54
Ayrshire—		
Pure and stud	4,878	
Ordinary	26,207	
		31,085
Alderneys—		
Pure and stud	1,449	
Ordinary	4,744	
		6,193
Holstein—		
Pure and stud	100	
Ordinary	200	
		300
Jersey—		
Pure and stud	1,875	
Ordinary	6,643	
		8,518
Crosses (estimated) :—		
Shorthorn and Hereford	304,759	
Shorthorn and Devon	133,788	
Hereford and Devon	59,598	
Shorthorn and Black-polled	14,716	
Ayrshire and Shorthorn	54,946	
Alderney and Shorthorn	116	
Jersey and Shorthorn	83	
Shorthorn and Holstein	300	
Unrecognisable	391,450	
		959,756
Total		2,043,707

There were, in addition, 182,456 head not classified, which were for most part in the towns.

There has been a comparatively large increase in the num
milking cattle, as many of the stockowners, principally in the c
districts, are turning their attention to dairying instead of fat
for market, and it is believed that this change will continue a
time become general throughout the colony, as dairying, when pr
carried out, yields very satisfactory returns. The number of milch
is now 400,183. Further particulars in regard to the dairy ind
will be found on page 405.

The breed of cattle throughout the colony is steadily improvi
result due to the introduction of good stud stock, to greater att
and care exercised in selection and breeding, more particularl
dairying purposes; and to culling and keeping in paddocks. In
four out of the sixty-five sheep districts of the colony is it reporte
there is actual deterioration in the quality of the cattle, accounted
inattention to breeding. Cattle are for the most part kept in pad
Of the total number in the colony 1,864,953 are paddocked, 227,8
on open runs, and the remainder, 133,349, are depastured both w

During the year 1896, 87 pure-bred cattle were imported, c
from the other colonies of the group. Importations from Europ
America were prohibited for many years, owing to the natural dr
the stockowners lest their herds should contract diseases which
devastated the cattle of other countries. The prohibition was re
in 1888, and cattle are now admitted after strict quarantine.
number so admitted in 1896, included in the above figures, was
1 Jersey, 2 Hereford, and 2 Shorthorn bulls, and 2 Jersey and 2 Ay
cows.

The number of breeding cows in 1896 was estimated at 832,0
which 400,183 were dairy cows. The calves branded numbered 29
As the season was not unfavourable to stock, at least 80 per ce
calves would have been a reasonable expectation. It is, therefore,
that in a large number of instances the calves have not reached th
when they are usually branded. This was certainly the case w
large proportion of the calves dropped by what are termed dairy c

HORSES.

Australasia is eminently fitted for the breeding of most descrip
of horses, and attention has long been directed to this industry.
early period the stock of the country was enriched by the import
of some excellent thoroughbred Arabians from India, and to this
the high name which was acquired by the horses of Australia
largely due. The abundance of good pasture everywhere obtai
was also of great importance. The native kangaroo-grass, espe
when in seed, is full of saccharine matter, and young stock
excellently upon it. This abundance of natural provender allow
a large increase in the stock of the settlers, which would have b
great advantage had it not been that the general cheapness of hor

lect of the canons of breeding. In consequence of the discovery however, they became very high priced. Under ordinary con- this circumstance would have been favourable to the breed, h was the case in Victoria. But in New South Wales it was ›rwise ; the best of its stock, including a large proportion of ; valuable breeding mares, was taken by Victoria, with the hat for twenty years after the gold rush the horses of the greatly deteriorated. One class of stock only escaped—the hbred racer was probably improved both by the importation of ›ck from England, and by the judicious selection of mares. The f deterioration ended about the year 1870, since which year there ı a perceptible improvement in all classes of horses. The number, ıdily increased from 1883 to 1894, when it stood at 518,181. to the drought, however, the number in 1895 fell to 487,943 ; 1896 there was an increase to 510,636, attributed to increased nt, more breeding, and fewer sales owing to low prices. This is e the number that, under existing conditions, can be profitably in the colony ; but the exports are still few. It is to this over- hat the cheapness of horses is due. In 1895 the average price at auction for heavy draught horses was £10 ; but in 1896 the ı Australian demand had improved the call, and £1 to £2 more ained ; medium draught horses brought £8 to £12, and powerful £15 to £16, and sometimes £20. Sound, unbroken saddle horses £6 in 1895, while in 1896 they might be had for a somewhat gure, the demand having decreased in consequence of the popu- f the bicycle. Remounts for India realised prices up to £15. 'ollowing table shows the increase in the number of horses during twenty years :—

Year.	Horses.	Year.	Horses.
	No.		No.
1876	366,703	1887	390,609
1877	328,150	1888	411,368
1878	336,468	1889	430,777
1879	360,038	1890	444,163
1880	395,984	1891	469,647
1881	308,577	1892	484,309
1882	328,026	1893	493,231
1883	326,964	1894	518,181
1884	337,172	1895	487,943
1885	344,697	1896	510,636
1886	361,663		

ınnual increase in the number of horses has not been greater than r cent. during the twenty years covered by the above table, while ease of population during the same period has been at the rate per cent.

For purposes of classification the horses of the colony have been d
into draught, light-harness, and saddle horses, the numbers of each
cular kind being as follows :—

Class.	Thoroughbred.	Ordinary.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Draught	19,543	130,555	150,098
Light-harness	14,240	112,696	126,936
Saddle	29,194	177,800	206,994
Total..............	62,977	421,051	484,028

There were 26,608 horses not returned to the Stock Departme
they are therefore omitted from this classification.

The colony is specially adapted for the breeding of saddle and
harness horses, and it is doubtful whether these particular bre
Australian horses are anywhere surpassed. The bush horse is
and swift, and capable of making very long and rapid journeys
fed only on the ordinary herbage of the country ; and in times of dr
when the grass and water have become scanty, these animals oft
form astonishing feats of endurance. Generally speaking, the b
improving, owing to the introduction of superior stud horses a
breeding from good mares. Where there has been a deteriorat
the stock, it has been due to breeding from weedy mares for
purposes, and to the effect of drought. At the end of the year 1
was reported by the Inspectors of Stock that in thirty-eight of the
five districts into which the colony is divided the horses were imp
in quality ; in twenty districts there was no improvement shown ;
in only seven districts was there actual deterioration.

The approximate number of animals fit for market is as follows

Draught horses	22,254
Saddle horses	38,769
Light-harness horses..................................	23,934
Total	84,957

Of these, it is estimated that 20,090 are suitable for the India
China markets. The total number leaving the colony for marke
side Australasia during 1896 was only 2,365 ; but this was an a
of 671 on the number shipped in 1895, and of 1,202 on the n
shipped in 1894. In 1896 the horses sent to India numbered 1,6
compared with 1,064 in the previous year. The demand for ho
India is considerable, and Australia is a natural market from
supplies may be derived ; but so far the number shipped has be
small, the speculation of sending horses to that country being o
many risks, as, apart from the dangers of the voyage, there is alw
uncertainty as to the stock being accepted. As has already been
there was a demand from Western Australia in 1896, 773 horses

that colony during the year, as against 72 in 1895. The total
mand, however, is small, and it has not therefore been found
ous to breed horses to any great extent except for local
nts.

PASTORAL PROPERTY.

l property and stock form the largest factor in the wealth, not
ew South Wales, but also of all the other principal colonies of
ia, and the return derived therefrom is the largest source of the
its inhabitants. The total capital value of pastoral property
ony, including land, improvements, and plant, as well as stock,
nated in 1896 to be £113,755,000, of which £44,000,000
ed the value of land, £48,135,000 that of improvements and
d £21,620,000 that of stock. The value of land and stock
ly fallen during the past few years.

lue of stock does not include dairy cattle and swine; if these
ed the amount would be £24,270,000, and the total value of
al property, £116,405,000. In the above returns is included
of improvements on Crown lands under lease to the pastoral-
h for the year under review was estimated to be £9,108,350.
al value of the leased land is, of course, excluded from the general
From the nature of the industry it is difficult to arrive at
a general estimate of the return from pastoral pursuits as at
of production; the Sydney values are, however, more easily
d, and these are therefore given in the following estimate.
ep the return for the year 1896 was approximately £9 879,000,
the value of tallow; from cattle excluding dairy products,
was £990,000; from horses, £420,000; and tallow, £485,000;
4,000 in all. If from the total just given be deducted 10 per
ir approximation is arrived at of the station value of pastoral
for the year 1896. The estimated return falls far short of the
tained in former years.

mber of stock in each colony at the close of the year 1896
ximately as follows :—

Colony.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.
	No.	No.	No.
Wales	48,318,790	2,226,163	510,636
	13,180,943	1,833,900	431,547
l	19,593,696	6,507,377	452,207
tralia	6,402,593	638,591	192,458
ustralia	2,248,976	199,793	57,527
	1,640,567	157,230	29,447
nd	19,138,493	1,138,572	249,732
lasia	110,524,058	12,701,626	1,923,554

The number of sheep and cattle runs in the colony at the the year 1896 was 44,292, of which 40,076 were enclosed, and were open or unenclosed; 22,694 of the enclosed runs were subdivided into paddocks, and 13,992 were partially subdivided. area comprised in these holdings was approximately 168,9 acres, about 42,598,000 acres being freehold, and 126,308,000 leased from the State. The improvements effected on estates have been valued at £48,135,000. Of this sum, absorbs £30,811,750, representing 770,500 miles without wire at an average rate of £38 10s. per mile, amounting to £29,6 and 17,000 miles with wire netting, at an average cost of £ per mile, amounting to £1,147,500. The dams for watering numbered 62,065, at an average value of £55 10s.; and there 51,968 excavated tanks, worth on an average £140; while th sunk or bored numbered 8,405, the average value of each being thus the total of all dams was £3,444,600, of tanks £7,275,520, wells £890,930. The value of improvements and plant other th specified was about £5,712,200.

PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

The Public Watering Places Act of 1884 (48 Vic., No. 16) ca operation on the 1st January of that year. By this measure t struction and administration of the artesian bores and public w places are entrusted to the Minister of Mines and Agriculture, a carried out under the direction of a superintendent and staff.

The first successful artesian well sunk in New South Wales the Kallara Station in 1879. The spot selected for the experime near a mud spring, and after boring 140 feet water was tapped rose 26 feet above the curb, and the flow has continued ever sinc Government first commenced boring in 1883; but in 1891, on the mendation of the officer in charge, all the Government auger withdrawn from the field, and since that date the work has been d contract. The prices paid vary somewhat, the range bein 17s. 6d. to £1 10s. for the first 500 feet; 17s. 6d. to £1 15s 1,000 feet; £1 1s. 6d. to £2 up to 1,500 feet; £1 1s. 6d. to £2 up to 2,000 feet; £1 14s. to £2 10s. up to 2,500 feet; and from to £3 10s. for depths up to 3,000 feet.

Public watering places are established on all the main stock ro the colony. These works consist of dams, wells, and artesian bores the present time 147 tanks, 30 dams or reservoirs, 32 wells, and 51 bores are in existence. The tanks have a capacity of up to 5 gallons, and in depth they range from 15 to 20 feet. They are so c ted as to be fed during rainy weather by surface drains. The soil f excavations is embanked around, in order to afford shelter from th and so lessen evaporation, and also, where the contour is fa conserve water above the ground surface. The total storage ca the tanks and wells above mentioned may be set down at 500,000,000 gallons, and the wells, if regularly worked, will yield a total of 450,000 gallons per day. Except at those dams and reservoirs which are of large extent and capacity, stock are not allowed direct access to the tanks, but are admitted to troughs which are filled by means of service reservoirs, into which the water is raised by various methods—steam, horse, or wind power. From the wells the water is mostly drawn by whims and self-acting buckets. In addition to this supply, the 51 Government artesian bores on the various stock routes of the colony yield approximately 23,000,000 gallons.

Of the dams, tanks, wells, and bores in existence, 181 have been let on lease for 5 years, at rentals ranging from £1 to £135, the total rental receivable by the State being £4,379. After being advertised in the *Government Gazette* and the local newspapers, the leases are submitted to public tender, the condition being that the tenant must constantly either reside at the watering place himself or provide a resident caretaker. In either case he may take stock on agistment and depasture a certain number of his own on the lands appertaining to the lease, and he is also encouraged to cultivate and improve such lands. He is permitted to charge a fixed scale for watering stock, viz.: 1d. per head for horses, 1d. for cattle, 4d. for camels, ½d. for goats and pigs, and 1s. per 100 or portion of 100 sheep. Water may also be sold for domestic purposes at 6d. per 100 gallons. Seven public watering places have been placed under the authority of trustees or municipal councils, this course being permitted by the Act when expedient. In addition to the above, 34 dams and waterholes are open to the public without any fee or regulations.

LIVE STOCK OF THE WORLD.

The latest returns respecting the flocks and herds of the world, based on figures given in the report of the Statistician to the American Department of Agriculture, are given below. The important part which these colonies are destined to play in the wool markets of the world will be better understood when the character of the wool produced in Australia is made an item of comparison, as well as the actual number of sheep depastured :—

Continent.	Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.	Swine.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Europe	104,430,000	36,483,000	187,144,000	49,164,000
Asia	60,847,000	4,279,000	39,922,000	489,000
Africa	6,095,000	1,239,000	35,589,000	547,000
America	115,497,000	23,203,000	147,535,000	50,783,000
Australasia*	12,842,000	1,929,000	110,541,000	1,042,000
Total	299,711,000	67,133,000	520,731,000	102,025,000

* Including Pacific Islands.

In order to give a more definite idea of the development of the pa resources of New South Wales, the following table has been com showing in different periods from 1860 the amount of stock th been actually depastured in the colony. For the sake of conven the numbers of cattle and horses are expressed in terms of sheep; is, allowance has been made at the rate of ten sheep for each h large stock, so that the total shows what would have been the had the cattle and horses been replaced by their equivalent of There is also shown the number of acres of land in the colony to sheep of the totals thus found, as well as the number of such she head of the population :—

Year.	Sheep.	Other stock expressed in terms of sheep.	Total.	Area per sheep.	She per he popula
	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	No
1860	6,119,163	26,600,830	32,719,993	5·99	93·
1865	8,132,511	22,444,920	30,577,431	6·40	74·
1870	16,308,585	25,326,930	41,635,515	4·70	83·
1875	25,353,924	34,917,820	60,271,744	3·35	101·
1880	35,398,121	29,760,240	65,158,361	3·00	87·
1885	37,820,906	16,620,120	54,441,026	3·60	57·
1890	55,986,431	23,531,720	79,518,151	2·46	78·
1891	61,831,416	25,061,320	86,892,736	2·25	75·
1896	48,318,790	27,367,990	75,686,780	2·59	58·

DISEASES IN STOCK.

On the whole, the stock of New South Wales was tolerably free disease during 1896, especially as regards sheep and horses. Sc sheep has been unknown in this colony for some considerable time indeed the whole of Australasia is at present exempt from this m In Western Australia, where it existed longest, no case has bee with since May, 1895. The importation of sheep from that colony New South Wales is, however, still prohibited, and will remain so the Western Australian Government declare the colony to be free scab. There are sixty-five sheep districts in New South Wales. In foot-rot was noticed in nineteen districts; and in twenty district sheep were affected with fluke. In sixteen districts, to the ext about 5½ per cent., the sheep were reported to have been infested worms in seven districts with stomach, lung, and tape worms; i districts, with stomach and tape worms; and in four districts, stomach worms. Anthrax, although there have been no serious breaks, has appeared in several districts, but the losses from disease have been comparatively small. The dry season was dist unfavourable to the spread of such diseases as foot-rot and fluke.

ear was unusually free from epizootic diseases in horses. Anthrax
orted in one district; and Australian string-halt—a disease
ed by the Government Veterinary Surgeon to be due to the
of intestinal parasites—had appeared in nine districts. Prurigo
ed to give trouble in some districts. Influenza, commonly known
k-eye," was reported from only one district. Glanders has not
d since it was discovered among circus-horses which had arrived
nerica in November, 1891, six of which had to be destroyed. A
able number of horses on the Lower Darling were attacked two
go with an affection of the eyes, which in many cases resulted
blindness; but in 1896 no outbreak of this disease ,occurred,
y on account of the dryness of the season. This ailment is now
to have been due to parasites. The number of horses lost
the year through various causes, principally drought, was
l as 15,594.

regard to cattle, pleuro-pneumonia was reported from twenty-
istricts, or 162 runs, while in the other districts the cattle were
l as free from that disease. Cumberland disease is reported to
lled 591 head, in seven districts, during the year. Symptomatic
, or "black-leg," carried off 255 head, in six districts. Cattle to
nber of 1,247, in thirty-six districts, are reported to have died
ncer and actinomycosis; and from ten districts are reported
ks of ophthalmia resulting in 283 deaths. Fifteen deaths from
er were reported in one district. Cattle to the number of 5,180,
y-nine districts, died from tuberculosis or had to be destroyed,
2 deaths from eating supposed poisonous plants were reported
e districts.

r the provisions of the Diseases in Sheep Act of 1866 (30 Vic.,
, and the Amending Acts of 1878 and 1882 (41 Vic., No. 19,
Vic., No. 5), the colony is divided into sixty-five sheep dis-
he boundaries of which are defined by proclamation. In each
a Board of five directors is annually elected by the sheep-
all who possess more than 500 sheep being entitled to vote, or to
ed. Owners of over 10,000 and under 20,000 sheep have two
over 20,000 and under 30,000, three votes; and those possessing
an 30,000, four votes. In addition, there are a chief inspector
pectors, who are appointed by the Government, and who have
o enter on any run at any time and examine the sheep thereon.
r to provide funds for this work, all sheepowners are required to
ntribution of £1 per 1,000 or portion of 1,000 sheep, but persons
less than 500 sheep are exempt.

y precaution is taken to prevent the introduction of disease from
the colony, and all importations of live stock are regulated
Imported Stock Act of 1871 (35 Vic., No. 6). By an Amend-
passed in 1884 (48 Vic., No. 12), it was made lawful, in certain
suspend the operation of the principal Act for a period not
ng six months; and at the present time all stock other than

sheep may be introduced from any other Australian colony, e Western Australia, without undergoing quarantine. The import of cattle, sheep, and swine is prohibited from all foreign countri colonies, but is permitted from Great Britain and Ireland. G deer, and other ruminants may only be landed in quarantine if int for a zoological society. The master of a vessel arriving in New Wales with foreign live stock on board is required, together wit attendant on the animals on the voyage, to make a declaration their health. The stock are then examined by an inspector a veterinary surgeon, and, if pronounced free from infection, are con by water to the quarantine ground. Here horses are detained 14 d cattle, sheep, goats, deer, buffaloes, and other ruminants, 60 days; ca 90 days; swine, 60 days; and dogs, 6 months. The number of an quarantined during the last seven years was as follows:—

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Dogs.
1890	22	16	222	112
1891	74	26	432	31
1892	29	7	229	43
1893	22	8	55	78
1894	19	9	20	53
1895	11	5	......	78
1896	20	9	65	70

If stock on arrival are found to be infected, the animals are in ce cases at once destroyed, and in others treated as the Chief Insp may direct. Under this provision, six horses, suffering from gla and farcy, were destroyed in quarantine in 1891.

Further precautions for the protection of the health of the live of the colony are taken under the Animals Infectious Diseases A 1888 (56 Vic., No. 17), which makes it illegal for persons, unless spe licensed by the Minister for Lands, to keep or propagate disease mic or to inoculate animals therewith.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

The only large carnivorous animal in Australia at all dangerous to is the dingo, or native dog; but animals which consume the past such as kangaroos, wallabies, hares, and rabbits, are equally d by the settlers to be noxious. The rabbits are the greatest pest; period over 100,000,000 acres were infested with them, and 25,2 were destroyed in one year, and their skins paid for by the G ment.

Rabbits first found their way into this colony from Victoria, some were liberated upwards of thirty years ago in the G trict. Their presence first attracted serious attention in 1881, when, the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's speech at the opening of rliament, regret was expressed that the Ministerial programme did t include a bill to deal with them. Although this suggestion was iculed at the time it was made, complaints began to be heard in the th-western corner of the colony of the damage being done by the bits, which multiplied so rapidly that in 1882 they were to be met h on most of the holdings having frontages to the Murray. Attempts de to cope with them under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act re ineffectual, and on the 1st May, 1883, a Bill having for its ject their destruction became law. This Act (46 Vic., No. 14), own as the "Rabbit Nuisance Act," provided for the compulsory truction of rabbits by the occupants of the land, who were to receive ubsidy from a fund raised by an annual tax upon stockowners. This d soon proved inadequate, and from the 1st May, 1883, to the th June, 1890, when the Act was repealed, it was supplemented by 03,786 from the Consolidated Revenue. The following table shows amount of assessment for each year during which the Act was in ration:—

Year.	Amount of Tax.	Year.	Amount of Tax.
	£		£
1883 (from 1st May)	490	1888	157,252
1884......................	84,830	1889	98,312
1885...	159,554	1890 (to 30th June)	4,714
1886......................	115,711		
1887..............	210,594	Total ......£	831,457

In addition to this amount of £831,457 and to the Government conbution of £503,786, landowners and occupiers are estimated to have tributed £207,864, so that the total cost during the above-mentioned iod exceeded £1,543,000.

The Rabbit Act of 1890 (54 Vic., No. 29) repealed the 1883 Act and se provisions of the Pastures and Stock Protection Act (44 Vic., No. relating to rabbits. It also provided for the proclamation from time time of Land Districts as "infected," and for the encouragement of erection of rabbit-proof fences. From the 1st July, 1890, to the 31st cember, 1896, the State expenditure on account of rabbits was y £37,812, the greatest part of which—£28,806—has been oted to the erection of rabbit-proof netting. In August, 1887, Government offered a reward of £25,000 to any person who would ke known a process for the effectual extermination of the pest; but offer was subsequently withdrawn. Conferences of landowners and toralists on the subject of rabbit destruction were held in October, 5; June, 1886; and April, 1895. A new Rabbit Act was prepared under the direction of the Minister for Lands in 1897, and will mitted to Parliament after the Boards established under the P and Stock Protection Act have made suggestions as to amendme

A wire-netting fence, 346 miles in length, following the bo between New South Wales and South Australia, from the M northwards, has been erected by the New South Wales Governme cost of its repair being shared by the Government and the ow the holdings adjoining the fence. A rabbit-proof fence has been at the public expense between Barringun on the Queensland bord the River Darling at Bourke, a distance of 84 miles, the cost maintenance being borne by the owners of the holdings adjoini In addition to this, the whole of the fence along the western side railway line from Bourke, via Blayney and Murrumburrah, to C in the extreme south of the colony, a distance of 622 miles, ha rendered rabbit-proof, the Railway Commissioners undertakin work of supervision. Another rabbit-proof fence is now erected at the joint expense of the Governments of Quee and New South Wales, from Mungindi to Narrabri, a di of about 180 miles, 115 of which are practically finished, making the total length of State-constructed barrier-fencing miles. It is estimated that altogether about 16,800 miles of netting fence have already been erected, and it is known that hundreds of miles are now in course of erection. The same k netting has not been used on all lines of fencing. On the line Corowa to Narromine the netting is 17 gauge, 1¼ inch mesh, a inches in width. The contract price for this netting was £31 per and the cost of the fence about £50 per mile. On the South Aust border, netting of 17 gauge, 1¼ inch mesh, and 42 inches in widt used, with a contract price of £37 per mile of netting, and a tot of £76 per mile of fence. The netting used on the line from Narr to Bourke is 16 gauge, 1½ inch mesh, and 48 inches wide. Th tract price for this netting was £48 10s. per mile, and the cost fence about £84 per mile. On the fence in course of erection Queensland border, netting of 16 gauge, 1½ inch mesh, and 42 inc width, is being used.

The Pastures and Stock Protection Act (44 Vic., No. 11) an Amending Act (45 Vic., No. 23) provide for the appointment in sheep district of eight directors, of whom five are the sheep direct the district and three are owners of large stock, elected annu owners of not less than ten head. Those whose stock do not exce in number are entitled to one vote; those who have from 500 to to two votes; from 2,000 to 5,000, three votes; and owners of up of 5,000, four votes. Power is given to these directors to take m to ensure the destruction within their districts of all noxious an and to pay as rewards for such destruction, by way of bonus, suc as may be fixed by the Board from time to time. The inspect sheep act in their respective districts as inspectors under this Act y into effect the various provisions of the Act, assessments are levied, exceeding in the annual aggregate 3d. per head of large stock and per head of sheep. Owners of less than 100 sheep or 10 head of e stock are exempted. The amount of assessment collected during 6 was £38,252.

or the destruction of noxious animals other than rabbits, the amount l by stockowners in 1896 was £35,934. The number of kangaroos troyed during the year was 80,639; of wallabies, 655,309; kangaroo s, 160,808; wombats, 112; bandicoots, 1,879; pademelons, 21,791; d pigs, 23,300; hares, 551,548; native dogs, 13,138; opossums, 7,142; gle-hawks, 8,810; crows, 48,308; emus, 4,050; foxes, 66; and flying-es, 3,591. The loss of stock from native dogs is reported to have en 195,455 sheep, valued at £35,670; while the loss from tame dogs returned at 62,135 sheep, valued at £12,916.

The reward paid for scalps of noxious animals differs greatly according the locality, and is determined by the various Boards. The prices paid ring 1896 were as follow:—For kangaroos, from 1½d. to 6d.; wallaroos, .; wallabies, from 1d. to 3d.; pademelons, from ½d. to 3d.; hares, from . to 4d.; kangaroo rats, from 1d. to 3d.; bandicoots, ½d. to 3d.; tive dogs, from 10s. to 40s.; pups, from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.; opossums, ¼d. d ½d.; wild pigs, 3d.; eagle-hawks, from 3d. to 2s. 6d.; emus, 6d.; ws, from 2d. to 1s.; foxes, from 10s. to 20s.; and flying-foxes, 1d. d 1½d.

DAIRY FARMING.

Dairy farming has made progress of late years, and there is every spect of its developing into a most important industry. The roduction of the factory system in convenient centres, the great provements effected in dairy appliances, and the establishment direct railway communication with Sydney, have done much towards eloping the industry. Dairy farming is not now, as formerly, olly confined to farmers, as many graziers in a large way of business, ecially in the coastal districts, have lately turned their attention he industry, and are likely to find it profitable. When the factory tem was first introduced the factories were mostly co-operative, and process of cream separation and butter making were carried on ether. This arrangement is gradually dying out, and central butter tories, fed by numerous separating places called "creameries," are ing the place of the others. The advantages to be gained from the nge are considerable—a butter of more uniform quality is made in h centre, and there is a reduction in the cost of manufacture, owing he greater quantity made and the improved appliances, such as re-erators, which the larger establishments can profitably provide.

Most of the native grasses are particularly suitable for dairy cattle, hey possess milk-producing as well as fattening qualities The mild-s of the winter season enables dairymen to avoid the heavy expense of stall feeding, and although a certain amount of winter fodder is gr it is given to the cattle in the fields. The crops most popular for purpose are maize, barley, oats, rye, lucerne, and the brown variet sorghum or planter's friend. Ensilage, although very good for d cows, is not used so generally as it should be, the latest returns show that there were only 34 pit and 74 stack silos in the colony, m altogether 13,498 tons of ensilage. The area of land devoted to g food and permanent artificially-sown grasses has been largely exten during the last few years, and in March, 1897, it amounted to n 460,000 acres. The produce of this land is devoted to the depastu of dairy cattle, and as the area is still below the present requirem an extension of this form of cultivation may be anticipated. The n ber of dairy cows was returned as 400,183, distributed as follows :—

	Number.
Northern Division—	
Coast	63,536
Table-land	29,059
Western Slope	12,292
Total, Northern Division	104,887
Central Division—	
Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys	37,425
County of Cumberland and Metropolis	22,179
Table-land	37,163
Western Slope	5,320
Total, Central Division	102,087
Southern Division—	
Coast	112,966
Table-land	57,184
Western Slope	16,308
Total, Southern Division	186,458
Western Plains	6,751
Total, New South Wales	400,183

Constant attention to the peculiarities of the climate and the w of the colonists, as well as the judicious crossing of strains, has devel a breed of cows peculiar to Australia, especially in the coast dist immediately south of Sydney; but all well-known breeds of milk found in New South Wales. The milk yielded by the dairy cows of colony may be set down at about 108,050,000 gallons, of which y consumed in making butter and cheese during the past year out 74,111,000 gallons. The weight of the butter made was ,277 ℔., and of cheese, 4,019,844 ℔. The yield of milk per cow ry variable quantity ; in some of the principal dairy centres as s 500 gallons is returned as the yearly average, while in other s the yield falls far short of this. For the whole colony the e may be set down at a gallon per day for every cow milked, e cows are only milking for about nine months of the year, so ch yields approximately 270 gallons.

quantity of milk required to make a given weight of butter varies rably according to whether the milk is treated by a separator or old fashion. A great proportion of the butter now made is what lly termed factory or separator-made, and the average quantity of sed per ℔. of butter produced is 2·6 gallons, or 26 ℔. 2 oz. For ry hand-made butter the quantity required is about 3 gallons, so ere is a saving of about 13 per cent. by the former method, in addi- the extra value of the butter produced, the price in the Sydney ts during 1896 being from 1d. to 2d. per ℔. higher for the factory- than for the ordinary kind. No statistics respecting the manu- e of butter and cheese were collected prior to 1887, when the ty made was 16,106,000 ℔. and 5,780,000 ℔. respectively. The of manufacture is shown in the following table, which gives the ty of butter made during the last nine years :—

Year ended 31st March.	Butter.		
	Factory.	Farm.	Total.
	℔.	℔.	℔.
1889	......	......	15,550,440
1890	......	......	17,600,264
1891	8,049,656	10,484,474	18,534,130
1892	7,661,197	10,701,700	18,362,897
1893	10,141,066	11,257,234	21,398,300
1894	15,635,360	10,755,484	26,390,844
1895	17,567,646	9,792,049	27,359,695
1896	16,770,189	6,525,323	23,295,512
1897	18,828,293	7,045,984	25,874,277

number of hands employed at dairy farming in 1896 was 23,634 ; e, 11,686 were males, and 11,948 females. Included in the total 97 persons employed in the various factories, which numbered mploying steam equal to 2,929 horse-power, the plant used being at £212,216. The principal factories are situated in the Shoal- , Camden, Kiama, Eden, and Richmond River districts. The e of the factories in 1896 was 18,828,293 ℔. of butter, and 106 ℔. of cheese.

The following table shows the manufacture of butter and cheese districts :—

District.	Butter.	Cheese.
	lb.	lb.
Northern Division :—		
Coast	3,974,[illegible]	[illegible]
Table-land	762,[illegible]	[illegible]
Western Slope	162,[illegible]	[illegible]
Total, Northern Division	4,[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Division :—		
Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys	2,703,468	[illegible]
County of Cumberland and Metropolis	5,956,[illegible]	[illegible]
Table-land	1,654,407	[illegible]
Western Slope	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total, Central Division	10,385,346	[illegible]
Southern Division :—		
Coast	8,[illegible],178	[illegible]
Table-land	2,189,254	[illegible]
Western Slope	305,651	[illegible]
Total, Southern Division	10,764,[illegible]	[illegible]
Western Plains	45,178	224
Total, New South Wales	25,874,277	4,019,344

The following table shows the imports and exports of butter and cheese for the last ten years :—

Year.	Butter.		Cheese.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1887	1,034,544	1,041,152	318,099	247,826
1888	2,258,704	764,960	691,148	300,375
1889	1,904,737	662,489	955,494	300,750
1890	838,703	1,120,044	212,801	288,992
1891	1,410,508	572,212	260,428	109,965
1892	729,510	1,757,319	136,597	82,867
1893	472,542	3,177,911	94,721	124,760
1894	417,740	4,595,430	68,809	231,251
1895	2,199,261	2,147,650	265,511	200,721
1896	2,114,126	2,707,088	1,214,506	264,809

rge portion of the imports shown above was for the western districts
colony, where dairy-farming naturally has not been attempted,
to the prevailing climatic conditions. The import into Sydney
96 was nearly 1,347,000 lb. below the export, so that the metro-
a market is evidently in the hands of the local farmers.

surplus of butter over local requirements amounts during the
er months to nearly 75 per cent. of the total output, and the
h market absorbs nearly all of this. The remarkable increase
export trade is a satisfactory indication that the dairymen of
lony have begun to realise the enormous market for their produce
is presented by the teeming populations of the United Kingdom.
nly during the last five years that Australian butter has seriously
nced the London market, for although for some time small con-
ents had been sent to London, the huge import into that city from
ark and Sweden practically controlled the price of the Australian
. The position is now, however, changed, about two-thirds of all
utter imported into London during the winter months being of
alian origin, and on many occasions during the past three seasons
alian creamery butter commanded a higher value than Danish.
rices obtained during the past year for Australian butter in the
n market were very satisfactory, especially in comparison with
henomenally low prices ruling during 1895. Great progress has
made of recent years in the preparation of a good article for export,
many large refrigerating plants have been erected for that purpose
e most suitable localities. The prices per cwt. for New South
butter in London during the last five years were as shown below:—

h.	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
y ...	106	94	108	98	96	75	*	*	106	100
ary ..	98	82	98	86	94	72	*	*	102	94
......	94	80	96	84	88	68	*	*	96	85
.... ..	*	*	*	*	80	60	*	*	92	80
.... ..	*	*	*	*	78	60	*	*	...	...
......	*	*	*	*	77	54	*	*	...	...
......	*	*	*	*	64	56	*	*	...	...
d.....	*	*	*	*	58	56	*	*	...	...
nber.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	...	...
r	114	102	106	94	*	*	106	100	...	...
ber.	108	96	108	98	*	*	102	98	...	...
ber..	110	98	116	104	*	*	100	94	...	...

* No quotations.

experience of the trade so far has shown that butter should be
expressly for export, and of the best possible quality and texture,

salted and coloured to suit the taste of the particular market for
it is intended. Were greater uniformity in the characteristics
produce secured, London purchasers would be enabled to "buy to a
which would place New South Wales butter on a much better f
in the market. These results can only be attained by paying the g
attention to cleanliness in all the processes of manufacture, t
care in the reduction of the temperature of the cream before it i
by rail or road to the factory, and making a more judicious select
cows. The most suitable form of box, the method of packing, a
quality of the parchment paper used, are all matters of importa
the trade is to succeed, and must receive the attention of the
interested, as must also the question of winter feeding, so as to se
continuous supply all the year round. Buyers naturally give pref
to sources from which they can receive a constant supply, and p
shipments have practically each year to oust afresh competing b
before they can gain a footing. Another matter requiring conside
is the advisability of direct shipments from the factories to sp
appointed agents in London or other centres. A serious fault, to
great deal of the butter hitherto shipped, has been the presence
much foreign moisture, which, freezing more readily than the fatt
stances of the butter, spoils the texture, and causes the article to b
crumbly. Satisfactory advances in these respects have been ma
the course of the last two years, but there is still room for improve
The local market has been marked by no exceptional features durin
year. The average prices ruling in Sydney were:—

Month.	Dairy. per lb.	Factory. per lb.	Month.	Dairy. per lb.	Fa pe
	d.	d.		d.	
January	9½	11¼	July...........	10¼	11
February	9	10½	August.........	10	11
March	6½	7½	September....	9	1
April...........	7½	9½	October.......	7	
May........ ...	10	11	November....	6½	
June	9¼	10½	December....	6¼	

Creamery butter averaged about ½d. per lb. more than the price
given for factory butter.

The manufacture of cheese hitherto has not been so success
that of butter, although it has been abundantly proved that

ent care is exercised in making and shipping, New South Wales
can find a ready sale in London at remunerative prices. The
ity manufactured since 1889 is given below:—

Year ended March 31.	Cheese.		
	Factory.	Farm.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1889	....	....	5,687,702
1890	....	....	4,834,286
1891	3,592,717	1,203,850	4,796,567
1892	3,722,264	1,783,807	5,506,071
1893	1,803,674	3,214,622	5,018,296
1894	1,614,383	3,078,721	4,693,104
1895	1,656,703	3, 63,709	4,820,412
1896	1,670,255	,268,530	2,938,785
1897	1,887,106	2,132,738	4,019,844

e price of cheese in the Sydney market during 1896 was as
rs:—

Month.	Large, per lb.	Loaf, per lb.	Month.	Large, per lb.	Loaf, per lb.
	d.	d.		d.	d.
y	6¼	6¾	July......................	4¼	4½
ry	6¼	6¾	August	4¼	4¾
....	5¾	6¼	September	4¼	4½
....	4½	5	October	3¾	4¼
....	4¾	5	November	4	4½
....	4¾	5¾	December	3½	4¼

stralian cattle, probably because they live in a more natural state, markably free from milk-fever and other complaints attendant on g. A large number of calves are reared on separated milk, to a little pollard or grain is added; but better results have been ed by providing a foster-mother, three to four calves being allowed h cow.

value of the dairy industry to the colony, excluding that of breeding, is estimated at £1,862,000 for the year 1896. The of milk not made into butter, but used for human consumption, 885,000; of butter, £863,000; and of cheese, £67,000; while the e of the milk, used mostly in feeding pigs, was worth approxi- y £47,000. The dairy cattle of the colony were valued at 0,000.

SWINE.

The breeding of swine, which is usually carried on in conjunct
with dairy-farming, has been very much neglected in New South W
and in 1896 the number of stock was 93,624 less than in 18
Considering the importance which the industry has attained in o
countries, it is a matter of surprise that more attention has not b
paid to it in this colony, where the conditions of farming in many pa
more especially in the coast districts, offer great facilities for
raising of this class of stock. The following table shows the num
of swine in New South Wales for 1860 and subsequent periods:—

Year.	Swine.	Year.	Swine.
	No.		No.
1860	180,662	1887	264,111
1865	146,901	1888	248,583
1870	243,066	1889	238,585
1875	199,950	1890	283,061
1880	308,205	1891	253,189
1881	213,916	1892	249,522
1882	154,815	1893	240,860
1883	189,050	1894	273,359
1884	211,656	1895	223,597
1885	208,697	1896	214,581
1886	209,576		

The production of swine is a large factor in dairy-farming, but
increase in the number of stock has not kept pace with the increas
the quantity of milk available for food. Although at the various far
factories, and creameries many more pigs could be fattened, the l
quantity of bacon and hams imported annually shows that the l
demand for swine of a good class or breed is far in advance of the sup
The breeds generally met with in the colony are the improved Berksh
Poland, China, Yorkshire, and Prince Albert, and probably the T
worth and Sussex might be advantageously introduced. The cro
from these breeds are numerous, but unfortunately in the majorit
cases the animals have deteriorated very considerably from want of
and selection in the breeding, and dairymen find it difficult to obta
good class of store pig. A farmer who sells his milk to a creamery
purchase separated milk at from 2d. to 3d. for 10 gallons, a price w
renders it a most profitable pig feed, provided that other crops, [illegible]
maize, rye, peas, mangolds, or pumpkins, are grown to supplement
milk diet. At present there are few factories devoted entirely to
curing of bacon and hams, and the pigs are usually sold when fi
porkers at from 60 lb. to 90 lb. weight, the majority being [illegible]

ney market alive. The price ruling for good porkers during 1896 ged from 15s. 9d. in May to 22s. 6d. in October. Owing to neglect to w root crops for winter feed for pigs, when milk is scarce, the demand store pigs at the commencement of the summer is very great, while re is usually a corresponding glut of fat pigs at low prices as winter roaches.

The number of swine slaughtered during 1896 was 149,971, of which ,690 were killed at the Metropolitan abattoirs; and the quantity of on and hams made was 5,303,763 lb., chiefly in the South Coast trict. It is possible, however, that a large number of swine are ghtered for bacon-curing, concerning which returns are not collected. e following is a statement of the quantity of bacon and ham made in various districts :—

District.	Bacon and Hams.
Northern Division—	lb.
Coast	407,612
Table-land	337,174
Western Slope	55,772
Total, Northern Division	800,558
Central Division—	
Hunter and Hawkesbury Valleys	300,038
County of Cumberland and Metropolis	1,329,743
Table-land	467,443
Western Slope	25,424
Total, Central Division	2,122,648
Southern Division—	
Coast	1,750,268
Table-land	414,966
Western Slope	210,681
Total, Southern Division	2,375,915
Western Plains	4,642
Total, New South Wales	5,303,763

ere is no reason why the production of bacon and hams should not ry largely increased, and an export trade in these articles estab- d with profit to the colony. More bacon factories are wanted l with refrigerating machinery, so that curing may be continued g the summer months. In these central establishments, moreover, ter care could be exercised both in securing uniformity in the quality e article and in cutting. This last is an important matter, as there s much as 1d. to 2d. per lb. difference between a well-cut and a badly-cut ham. For export the animals should be grown large English bacon pigs run to 300 or 400 lb. weight each. The quan of bacon and hams cured since 1889 is shown below :—

Year ended 31st March.	Bacon and Hams.		
	Factory.	Farm.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1889	....	....	7,057,903
1890	....	....	6,331,709
1891	2,541,948	4,888,023	7,429,971
1892	2,120,269	3,889,331	6,009,600
1893	1,803,824	3,330,253	5,107,077
1894	3,704,996	4,055,392	7,760,388
1895	2,417,373	4,375,530	6,792,903
1896	2,522,695	2,728,022	5,250,717
1897	2,902,987	2,400,776	5,303,763

The number of swine in each of the Australasian colonies at the cl of 1896 was as follows :—

Colony.	Swine.
	No.
New South Wales	214,581
Victoria	337,588
Queensland	97,434
South Australia	61,114
Western Australia	31,154
Tasmania	55,261
New Zealand	209,853
Australasia	1,006,985

It will thus be seen that Victoria has a larger number than any oth colony, its total being 337,588, or 33·5 per cent. of the whole herd New South Wales ranked second with 214,581, or 21·3 per cent. ; a New Zealand third with 209,853, or 20·8 per cent.

SLAUGHTERING.

Slaughtering for food is permitted only in places licensed for the p pose, but such establishments are very numerous. In the metropolit district there are 75, and in the country districts 1,830 slaughter-ya employing respectively 390 and 5,569 men ; in all, 1,905 establishme and 5,959 men.

The consumption of meat cannot be given accurately for the met politan and country districts separately, as several of the largest con ter-yards are carried on for the purpose of supplying the metro- n market. For the colony generally it is estimated that the ge annual consumption of mutton per inhabitant is 108·4 lb., of 156·3 lb., and of pork 13·7 lb., making a total consumption of lb.

e following table shows the quantity of stock of each kind killed g 1896 :—

Stock.	Number slaughtered in 1896.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Sheep	1,279,922	4,797,498	6,077,420
Lambs	16,124	103,205	119,329
Bullocks	69,663	163,212	232,875
Cows	12,669	86,241	98,910
Calves	10,281	9,180	19,461
Swine	89,597	60,374	149,971

hese figures represent the stock slaughtered for all purposes. Of the p and lambs, 3,107,273, including 1,159,945 killed on stations and s, represent the local consumption; 940,676 sheep were required neat-preserving establishments; 1,372,373 for freezing for export; e 657,098 were boiled down for tallow. All the cattle killed, pt 30,766 treated in the meat-preserving works and 4,072 exported n, were required for local consumption; and of the swine, 59,190 cured as bacon, and 90,781 killed for ordinary consumption. The wing shows the slaughtering of stock for nine years :—

Establish-ments.	Hands Employed.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Cattle.			Swine.
				Bullocks.	Cows.	Calves.	
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1,410	3,443	1,671,939	76,916	164,977	60,570	18,339	198,627
1,409	3,713	1,802,782	68,977	169,545	69,650	33,969	167,004
1,485	3,642	2,014,055	71,887	190,699	62,870	22,498	173,354
1,617	4,154	2,404,953	127,700	210,731	66,391	25,813	178,355
1,870	4,800	3,371,454	84,728	188,518	123,058	27,022	184,065
2,105	5,786	7,883,650	150,458	230,388	78,661	23,907	188,985
2,146	5,718	8,098,408	154,470	238,349	83,974	23,979	190,277
1,864	6,297	8,256,079	106,924	276,998	87,481	23,618	178,588
1,905	5,959	6,077,420	119,329	232,875	98,910	19,461	149,971

he value of stock slaughtered can be determined with exactness only he metropolitan market. Taking all stock sent to the Homebush ards, at Sydney, during 1896, for the purpose of slaughter, the price eep averaged 7s. to 12s. for wethers with wool, and 5s. to 8s. shorn; o 11s. for ewes with wool, and 4s. to 8s. shorn. For bullocks the

average price was £4 to £4 10s. per head; and for cows, £3 to £
At the Abattoirs mutton sold at an average of 1d. to 1¼d. per lb.
full skin was worth 4s. 6d., the shorn skin 9d. to 1s. 6d., the fat
per lb., and the head 1½d. Beef brought from 1d. to 1½d. per lb.
head and feet were worth from 1s. 3d. per set; the fat, 1d. per l
bullock hide, 16s.; a cow hide, 9s. to 11s.; and offal, 2s. 6d. per
Veal averaged from 1d. to 1¼d. per lb., the skin being worth 2s
Good lambs brought 3s. to 4s. each, and pork sold for 3½d. per lb.,
fat realising about 3d. per carcase.

SURPLUS STOCK.

If the pasture resources of New South Wales expanded at a rat
all approaching that of the increase of live stock, the inability o
colony to dispose of its surplus would not be a matter of material
cern, for though all classes of sheep decrease in value after a certain
the value of their wool, except in special and exceptional circumsta
is more than equal to the value of the grass they would consume
unfortunately happens, however, that under the present conditio
pasturage the number of sheep in the colony is, in a favourable se
too great to be properly maintained, so that the disposal of the su
is an important question.

By "cast" is meant the number at such age when it would be
profitable to send them for slaughter than to keep them, in the c
ewes for breeding, or for further growth in the case of non-bree
The cast, expressed as a percentage of the whole of the sheep depast
is a variable quantity, which, however, may be taken as ranging
13 to 14½ per cent., so that for the present year the cast will be
6,770,000, viz., about 3,075,000 ewes and 3,695,000 wethers. Ag
this there is a local consumption of 3,107,000, and about 74
additional are required for the markets of the neighbouring col
This gives a total consumption of 3,852,000, leaving a present su
of 2,918,000.

There are already in the colony works for preserving mutton
output for the year 1896 amounted to a little over 940,000
while the present frozen-meat trade requires some 1,372,000
reducing the surplus to 606,000 sheep—by no means a large nu
During 1896, 657,000 sheep were boiled down for tallow, so tha
whole of the surplus sheep of the colony were disposed of, althou
must be admitted, partly in a manner very disheartening to the g
As regards cattle, affairs are very different. The annual cast for
was about 269,000 head, while the consumption amounted to 351
showing a deficiency of 82,000. From Queensland there were imp
during the year 250,321 head in excess of the export. For the pa
years there has been a net import of cattle to the extent of about
a year, so it may safely be assumed that New South Wales if l
her own resources would not be able to maintain an export trade.

ll known that there is a large part of the colony well adapted for rrying cattle, and if the over-sea trade became profitable there is no ubt that much of the country over which sheep are now grazed would devoted to cattle, the necessary stores being obtained from Queensland. The question of the live stock trade with Europe is so important to ustralia that an account of the results attained so far was given at me length in a previous edition of this book. The efforts to establh an export trade in live cattle with the United Kingdom have, wever, been practically abandoned, the mortality being sufficiently igh to discourage those under whose auspices the experimental ipments were made. In 1894 there was an export of 108 live ttle to the United Kingdom; in 1895, 1,857 head were shipped to e United Kingdom, and 123 to France; but in 1896 no trade was ansacted. Most of the difficulties met with arose from the wildness f the cattle, nearly all of which were drawn from the bush, trucked ng distances to the port of shipment without sufficient nourishment, nskilfully hoisted on board in a starved and fevered condition, conigned to unsatisfactory quarters, and submitted to close confinement nd cultivated food for the first time. To make matters worse, the eason was unfortunately a dry one, and the drought caused a scarcity prime beasts, so that altogether there was no inducement to anyone o touch the trade. The disadvantages under which the pioneer hipments laboured, are not, of course, of such a kind as to prove nsurmountable to a determination to breed with the special object of onsigning the cattle to Europe; but there will always be keen competition to face from countries very much nearer to the coveted markets han is Australia, and the risk of landing the cattle at a time when prices are below a payable figure. During the last few years the Argentine Republic has made great strides in the live cattle and sheep rade, and is already one of Great Britain's chief sources of supply.

FROZEN-MEAT TRADE.

Although there has been a marked fall in the price of English mutton ld in London, it must not be assumed that this is entirely or even in considerable degree attributable to the development of the frozen-meat ade. The advanced prices obtained for English mutton in 1888 and ther years were due to a decrease in the quantity available for conumption, notwithstanding that the falling off was more than compenated for by an increase in the quantity of frozen meat imported. In 894 and 1895 there was a marked advance in the price of English utton, compared with what was obtained in the previous year. This as also due to a shortage in the home supply. It will be noticed that e advance in price was not felt by the imported mutton; on the other and, the advance obtained for frozen mutton in 1889 and other years as not due to a shortage in the supply of home-grown mutton, but to creased importations. These circumstances, taken into consideration with the facts disclosed by the following table, would seem to favou conclusion that in England the class requiring the locally-grown m is quite distinct from that using frozen mutton. The following shows the consumption of fresh mutton in England; the figures r sent the number of animals, the weight of which cannot be given:-

Year.	Locally-raised Sheep available for Slaughter.	Live, Imports.	Frozen Imports.	Total Consumpt
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1883	11,340,000	1,116,000	201,000	12,657,0
1884	11,750,000	945,000	632,000	13,327,0
1885	12,027,000	751,000	777,000	13,555,0
1886	11,582,000	1,039,000	1,187,000	13,808,0
1887	11,760,000	971,000	1,542,000	14,273,0
1888	11,575,000	956,000	1,975,000	14,506,0
1889	11,794,000	678,000	2,164,000	14,636,0
1890	12,667,000	358,000	2,948,000	15,973,0
1891	13,414,000	344,000	3,358,000	17,116,0
1892	13,457,000	79,000	3,310,000	16,846,0
1893	12,681,000	63,000	3,890,000	16,634,0
1894	11,987,000	485,000	4,324,000	16,796,0
1895	11,910,000	1,065,000	5,053,000	18,028,0
1896	12,342,000	770,000	5,718,000	18,830,0

A satisfactory solution of the question of disposing of the su stock by export to Europe is surrounded with great difficulty. It not yet been ascertained whether a remunerative price for mutton be maintained in London, nor—what is often lost sight of—whethe colony, under the present conditions of stock-raising, is able to f off the surplus stock it now produces; this last is very doubtful. of the essentials of a successful export trade is continuity of su without which the business cannot thrive. On page 378 there is a statement of the estimated losses which the pastoralists have suf through drought during a period of twenty-three years. From t appears that in only nine of those years has there been no loss throug seasons. In some of the other years the loss has been extreme, recurrence of similar seasons would leave little of the cast availab export, even if it were possible to fatten the stock. These are ma which require consideration in connection with the export trade which so great hopes are entertained.

The quantity of fresh and frozen mutton imported into the U Kingdom during 1896 was 324,258,000 lb.; besides this, there wa import of 770,000 sheep. These two classes of imports would be to about 7,525,000 carcases of Australian mutton, reckoning the av carcase at 48 lb. The present New South Wales surplus, after ded the local demand, and the requirements of the meat-preserving is, as shown on page 416, 1,978,000 sheep. The following is a the average wholesale prices obtained in various years for and frozen mutton sold in London :—

Best English.	New Zealand.	New South Wales.	River Plate.	Year.	Best English.	New Zealand.	New South Wales.	River Plate.
d.	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.	d.
9	7	$6\frac{6}{7}$	6	1890	8	$4\frac{5}{8}$	$3\frac{11}{12}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$
$7\frac{3}{4}$	6	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	1891	7	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$
$7\frac{1}{8}$	$5\frac{5}{16}$	$4\frac{7}{8}$	$4\frac{3}{5}$	1892	7	$4\frac{1}{3}$	$3\frac{1}{3}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$
8	$5\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	1893	$6\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
$6\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{3}$	4	$3\frac{7}{10}$	1894	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$
$7\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{12}$	$3\frac{7}{10}$	1895	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{7}{8}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$
$8\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{12}$	$4\frac{3}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$	1896	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$3\frac{5}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$

able given below shows the growth of the export trade in New Vales meat from the introduction of the system of shipping in a frozen state in 1881. Beef, mutton, and pork are all l in the figures. The weight of the preserved meat exported 1887 cannot be given, as it was not recorded :—

Frozen.		Preserved.		Other.		Total Value.
uantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
cwt.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£	£
9,980	8,554	....	* 176,721	1,152,348	15,321	200,596
13,782	22,910	....	* 143,601	622,263	9,087	175,598
34,911	43,100	....	* 221,912	734,274	9,870	274,882
13,309	12,321	....	* 161,477	621,007	8,948	182,746
6,271	6,064	....	* 166,561	458,886	6,682	179,307
4,852	4,671	....	* 77,756	263,637	3,112	85,539
21,831	19,310	9,761,154	150,714	919,750	24,752	194,776
52,262	44,537	4,528,269	69,481	809,507	16,028	130,046
37,868	33,426	2,877,303	52,321	743,685	12,984	98,731
72,304	71,534	4,655,523	74,329	638,137	13,477	159,340
105,013	101,828	6,581,713	87,632	443,902	9,596	199,056
223,074	169,425	8,620,747	105,922	786,057	8,342	283,689
220,584	141,640	13,092,942	164,592	632,767	9,081	315,313
339,404	193,760	16,382,577	206,054	934,083	22,289	422,103
608,441	560,823	22,384,285	302,828	1,191,850	21,647	885,298
642,566	343,680	16,351,936	218,292	1,288,946	37,961	599,933

* Including extract of meat.

g 1895 the shipments of frozen meat comprised 1,021,006 of mutton and 88,719 quarters of beef; and during 1896, 73 carcases of mutton, and 16,286 quarters of beef.

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY.

OF the great industries now carried on in New South Wale wheat and maize farming, wool-growing, and coal-mining dat the beginning of settlement: some industries which manifested promise have died out or fallen into neglect; others which now are of comparatively recent growth. Interesting as it is, there look back upon the conditions of industrial life which characteri development of the colony in its early years, it must be remem that those conditions have in many cases only an indirect bearin the commercial and social evolutions of present times. Nevert the beginnings of industrial life in Australia, uneconomic as th doubtedly were, are in various respects of great interest; and, presently appear, many important problems that agitated the publi in days long anterior to the gold discoveries still await solutio the following pages the industrial history of New South W traced from the first days of settlement. In some respects it is a of continuous progress, in others it is marked by features of an q character; but, speaking generally, there has been a systematic s in the condition of the workers, especially of those who may be as wage-earners.

The industrial history of the colony is naturally divided into completed periods and the present period, which was entered u 1893; but, as may be inferred from the nature of the case, exc regard to that represented by the gold rush, no sharp line of d between one industrial period and another can be drawn. opening and closing years of each period were:—

First	Industrial	Period,	from	1788	to	1821
Second	,,	,,	,,	1821	,,	1838
Third	,,	,,	,,	1838	,,	1843
Fourth	,,	,,	,,	1843	,,	1852
Fifth	,,	,,	,,	1852	,,	1858
Sixth	,,	,,	,,	1859	,,	1862
Seventh	,,	,,	,,	1863	,,	1872
Eighth	,,	,,	,,	1872	,,	1893
Ninth	,,	,,	,,	1893		

It is in relation to these several periods that the economic prog the colony is now discussed.

FIRST INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1788–1821.

The first period embraces the interval between the landing of Go Phillip and the departure of Macquarie; that is to say, from 1821. Intended, as it was, for a mere penal settlement, the in the colony for the operation of industrial forces, and before the authorities would recognise that the labourer hts beyond that to mere subsistence. This was perhaps a place where the great majority of the labourers were ; but the same ideas dominated the policy of the ruling after the free population became an important factor in the fe of the colony.

ut the first industrial period, and, indeed, until a much the spirit of the Government was that of paternal interery concern of social life. For the individual, especially , everything was regulated. The Governor fixed the price ned the quality of the provisions consumed in the settleade grants of land, and, in order to beautify his metropolis, se who received grants within its boundaries to build subhandsome edifices thereon; he erected markets, and framed their governance; he served out lands, cattle, and provisions ets like a tradesman purveying general merchandise; he s, ferry dues, and wharfage fees, and gave an eye to municipal Moreover, he gathered together the orphans in the colony, ed them out of the proceeds of the duties and customs the port. To the labourer he strove to ensure a fixed daily the labourer he sought to exact an unvarying amount as his loaf or his pound of meat. This was not only possible, entirely at one with the ideas of the times, as the colonist, called, was looked upon as an intruder whose presence, steful to the authorities, could not altogether be avoided.

e whole of the first period the Government was the main labour; indeed, in the earliest years there was no other. dividuals, the military officers were the first to seek labour, were made over a number of prisoners, by whose aid a country was cleared and cultivated. At first the Governed assigned labourers with clothing and food; but this was l, and the expense of maintaining them was borne by ers; indeed, this relief of the public stores was the chief which induced the authorities to introduce the principle of As years went on, an increasing number of men whose d expired became available for ordinary employment, and the soldiers who preferred to remain in the colony, retired lians in the employ of the Government, and, lastly, the migrants who had made their way to the settlement, ndustrial population. For a considerable period the free was not large, and there was no need to make special prolaws in regard thereto; but as the free element grew in the Governor found it necessary to promulgate laws for n of the relations between employer and the free employed. affecting labour were all conceived in the spirit of the primal designated work a punishment, the life of man a warfare and his time here below a probation to be spent in wearin sorrow. The General Orders issued during the first thirty yea sufficiently harsh and callous even when their provisions were with especial reference to the bond population, but they were more tender or considerate when they sought to regulate the co governing the operations of free labour. The hours of toil were lished, and on no tender scale. A day's work for stacking and grain was fixed at from 5 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock a less three hours for food and rest. The wages to be paid for classes of labour were also arbitrarily determined. Should a l take or demand more than the regulated rates, or refuse to w such wages, he was to be set in the stocks for two days and o for the first offence, and for a second or continued refusal he undergo a penalty of three months' hard labour. No person was to take work unless he could, if a freeman, produce his certific if a bondman, his ticket of leave. For the infringement of thi lation the penalty inflicted on the employer was a fine of £5, and for each day on which a free labourer was employed, with mo double this fine in the case of the employment of a bondman; paying more than the regulated rates he was liable to be imp for ten days, in addition to the fine. The harbouring of a r apprentice involved a penalty of six months' hard labour to a fr and of one hundred lashes, with other punishment, if the offend a prisoner. As the framer of the laws, the Governor had alway him the fact that the employer was often little better th labourer he employed, both, as a rule, belonging to the emancipi and both, therefore, in view of their common origin, deserving o what similar punishment for breaches of the labour regulatio affected by the accident of the possession of property by the o the want of it by the other.

The lot of the free labourer, even though he generally was an cipated convict, was very severe. Long were his hours of labou his pay was by no means commensurate with his day's toil. Agric labourers were paid £4 for clearing and hoeing for corn an ground; timber-getters, for sawing 100 feet, 7s., and for splitti feet, 1s. 6d. to 2s. In 1796 the sum paid for making a pair o was 3s. 6d.; for a coat, 6s.; and for a gown, 5s.; carpenters r 5s., and field labourers, 3s. a day, without rations, and these we sidered high prices. In 1814 a general order fixed the price for forest timber at 10s. per acre, and burning off at 25s. per acre; down weeds and brush and burning off at 10s. per acre, and a daily remuneration at 2s. 6d. Three years later the price g felling forest timber was reduced to 8s. per acre by an official reg burning off to £1 per acre, and other work in like proportion.

The annual expense of a convict to the Government was abo or £40 a year, including rations; and this the masters had upon assignment of prison labour. In addition to the men-d to masters, there was another class of labour available. The rs who were not assigned were employed by the Government ; but day closed at 3 o'clock, it was permissible for them to engage lves for the remainder of the day to a private employer. A man erefore, free to work for himself after the hour mentioned, and he could earn "on his own hands" became his personal property. eral order, a prisoner's remuneration after hours was fixed at 1s. ; but it is probable that skilled men, when they chose to work, he inducement more profitable than was contemplated. In some s, therefore, the lot of the prisoner was better than that of the ourer, who was compelled to clothe and feed himself. In those ays of paucity of labour it was also customary to permit the to engage themselves during the harvest months, and a general limited the remuneration to be paid to each man to 15s. y per week, or 1 bushel of wheat per acre harvested, at the 's option. A master transgressing this order was punished by nd in the event of any soldier demanding more than the regu- amount, he was summoned before the nearest magistrate to for his conduct.

regulation of prices by law was strictly in accordance with the the times, the object aimed at being to ensure to settlers a supply p labour, and incidentally to protect the labourer against fraud part of the master. Its principal effect was to prevent the from recovering in the Courts a greater price for his labour as stipulated in the schedule, whereas the moment it became the of the employer to give better terms he would do so. The blished by the Governor referred only to the various kinds of pertaining to agriculture and the allied pursuits, the wages of rs, particularly of such as were most useful in a young com- , being much higher. Transportation from England and Ireland intained during the whole of this period, and reached very large ions about the year 1817, in response to Macquarie's demand ur to carry on the agriculture of the country and to complete merous public works inaugurated during his term of office. ary immigration almost entirely ceased with the increase in rtation ; indeed, it was in many ways discouraged, the British ment going so far as to prohibit any person from proceeding to ony who could not prove that he was possessed of sufficient y to enable him to establish himself on his arrival there.

es were paid partly in money and partly in kind, so that in g the condition of industry some consideration must be given to stion of rations. These at first comprised an allowance of salt aize, and split peas ; but they were subject to considerable ation according to the condition of the stores, and especially times of scarcity. Such measures were, fortunately, not often ry ; but the occurrence of periods of want, if not of absolute had to be anticipated in a colony dependent for its support exclusively on importations, in days when ships visited the settlem only at long intervals, and prospects of profitable trading had not y been made manifest. The fact that supplies were not sooner obtain from the soil of the country was probably the result of ignorance rath than of lethargy, for when knowledge was gained the difficulties the way of obtaining breadstuffs disappeared.

Governor Macquarie continued the rates of remuneration authori by his predecessors; but he directed that masters should pay th assigned servants a yearly sum of £10 for a man and £7 for a wom including the value of slops allowed, or £7 for a man and £5 10s. fo woman when clothing was supplied. It is probable that these rates we determined by custom, as it is certain that most masters made allowan to their men at about the scale named; and that the rule was introdu to meet the cases of those who made no allowance or such as was insuf cient to meet the wants of their assigned servants. The whole tendenc of the regulations was to allow the average free labourer to ea 10s. a week in addition to rations, or 20s. a week where rations we not supplied. As already remarked, there is abundant contempora testimony that, in spite of the severe penalties of the law, the leg rates were not adhered to, for the settlers ordinarily had to give mor the labourers refusing employment at the fixed rates.

Average prices of some few articles during the first twenty years o settlement are given below; and although labourers in receipt of 3s. a day would purchase few of the commodities mentioned at the go stores, they would probably, under the necessity of accepting the bart currency of the country, be compelled to take them in payment for thei work, notwithstanding that by special regulation it was ordained tha all wages were to be paid in sterling money or in wheat, at the optio of the labourer.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Maize, per bushel............	10	0	Salt pork, per lb.	0	7
Wheat, per bushel	12	0	Rice, per lb.	0	3
Flour, per lb.	0	9	Potatoes, per lb.	0	3
Butter, per lb.	3	0	Moist sugar, per lb..........	1	6
Cheese, per lb.	2	6	Soap, per lb.	1	0
Bacon, per lb.	1	9	Eggs, per dozen	2s. to 3s.	
Salt beef, per lb.	0	5			

These figures represent the average market rates, but prices wer subject to great fluctuation; for example, wheat sold in 1817 at 25 per bushel, while maize touched 16s. in some other years. Fresh mea was not plentiful, as the Governors were afraid of destroying th breeding stock, and Macquarie at one time actually attached the penalt of death to the destruction of the wild cattle found at the "Cowpa tures" of Camden, although these cattle were afterwards killed, a it was feared that they might deteriorate the breed of stock. Th settlers were at all times encouraged to keep pigs; and they mus have grown vegetables, as American whalers, even in the earliest time were accustomed to put into Port Jackson for a supply.

and communication were restricted, not only with the view of
the safe keeping of the convicts, but also in the commercial
of Great Britain, and particularly of the East India Company.
amen were forbidden to go on board a foreign vessel under
ty of a £50 fine, and no British subject was permitted to enter
contract with the subjects of a foreign power under pain of
t away from the colony. Ships bringing cargoes from any
he world, unless the goods had been manufactured in Great
rere obliged to pay a duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* on the
f their invoices, and special enactments were from time to
lled at the importation of merchandise "brought from the
of the Cape of Good Hope." The isolated condition of the
t rendered colonists peculiarly liable to extortion on the part
, and the paternal Government therefore issued a general
bidding traders to charge for retailing more than 20 per cent.
on the importers' prices. In doubtful cases the retail price
red, if sued for, to be estimated by the Courts, at an advance
30 to 100 per cent. on the prime cost of English or Indian
of 20 per cent. on the retail price in the exporting country.

f hand for contracted debts were not recognisable as evidence
account of the articles sold, with the prices stated therein,
produced. No note of hand could be drawn in copper coin
lonial currency, as such bills were, under an order of the
, to be liquidated in sterling money only, and the words
money" had to be expressed in the body of the note or bill.
lty for a breach of this regulation was a fine of £50. A
t regulation prohibited any person from receiving or paying
of hand that had not the words "sterling money" therein
, under a penalty of double the amount of the note inflicted
ayer and receiver. Having regulated the relations of employer
oyed, of buyer and seller, and the prices of labour and provi-
was only fitting that the rate of interest should be determined.
rnor, therefore, prohibited the charging or acceptance of more
r cent. interest on any bill, bond, or the like, under a penalty
the laws against usury. It is almost needless to say that
ation was set at nought by the usurers without difficulty.

o the year 1810 industries properly so called were non-existent,
uarie's term of office was marked by considerable commercial
Vessels were built and fitted out in the dockyards of Sydney,
c works were pushed on by the Governor with characteristic
In the year named the settlement possessed a brewery, a
tannery, a manufactory for tobacco pipes, and another for
ths and woollens. The last named was established at Parra-
order to utilise the services of the women prisoners, who were
oyed in spinning linen out of the white flax of the country.
rticles of export to the East during these early years was
d, for which there was an excellent market in China. The

trade was in a certain sense contraband, as it involved a breach o charter of the East India Company. Despite the fact that the p Newcastle was a dangerous place for vessels to enter, the export of coal was attempted, and there appears to have been some carried on with Bengal in this mineral. Among other exports beche-de-mer, whale oil, whale bone, seal skins, kangaroo skins lastly, what was destined to be the staple product of the colony—

At the beginning of Macquarie's administration, he was recomm to make as many reforms as possible in the restrictions imposed commerce by his predecessors. Many of these restrictions were peculiarly harassing and impolitic nature, and were calculated to g discourage mercantile speculation. The most grievous was that tice, sanctioned by long usage, by which the Governor fixed the maxi prices to be paid for all imported merchandise—prices often too l afford a fair profit to the trader. The entire cargo of a vesse secured by the officers of the settlement, who alone had liber purchase, and articles of the first necessity were subsequently ret by them to the settlers at greatly enhanced prices. Another regul of a particularly oppressive character was the prohibition of any tr vessel from calling at the settlements at Van Diemen's Land fo purpose of disposing of goods, unless it had previously touched at Jackson. These and other abuses were in some cases restricted in operation by Macquarie, and in others abolished. Soon after his a he did away with the practice of fixing a maximum price for grai butcher's meat, but reverted to it a few years later.

The people, other than those of the labouring class, were, according contemporary history, in a flourishing condition, but this description not be taken too literally, as it was that of men accustomed to the wret ness of English or Irish peasant life, and what would be deemed fairly fortable by them would nowadays be looked upon as far from toler As regards the ordinary labourer, his material condition was in respect wretched. He lived usually in a windowless hut, was clothed canvas, and his food, though plentiful, was coarse and savourless. portunities for amusement, culture, or self-education, he had none. were hardly to be obtained; morality was at its lowest ebb; and religio a matter of authoritative regulation and enforced ceremonial obedi

The method of exchange prior to Macquarie's arrival was m barter, varied to a slight extent by the circulation of foreign silve of copper coin. The latter possessed twice its English value, a general order was promulgated against both its import and its ex Later in the history of the colony, various expedients were resort by tradesmen, and shopkeepers' notes were circulated for sums va from 3d. upwards, payable in Spanish dollars. The standard cur really consisted of paymaster's notes on the English Treasury, these were negotiable with shippers in exchange for goods, a fact assisted materially in the establishment of a trade monopoly b officers of the civil and military departments.

The local values of the coins circulating in the settlement prior to the arrival of Governor Macquarie were as follow :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Guinea	1	2	0	Spanish dollar	0	5	0
Johanna	4	0	0	Rupee	0	2	6
Half-joe	2	0	0	Dutch guilder	0	2	0
Ducat	0	9	6	English shilling	0	1	1
Gold mohur	1	17	6	A copper coin of 1 oz.	0	0	2
Pagoda	0	8	0				

These currency values were, however, subject to considerable alteration, and there was, moreover, a great diversity in the nominal value set upon the Spanish dollar at one and the same period. Labourers rarely saw this coin; they were paid for their work in goods at monopoly values, and their remuneration consisted chiefly of rum, the price of which was determined by the importers, who saved themselves from competition by a mutual agreement as to prices, entered into in 1797, by which they were bound neither to underbuy nor undersell one another. The goods purchased by the officers from speculative shippers were paid for in wheat receipts, in paymaster's notes, and in Spanish dollars. It was to prevent the depletion of silver currency that Governor Macquarie in 1813 adopted the expedient of striking the centre out of the dollar, and using the "dump" to denominate a fourth of the value of the original coin, which, however, still passed current as a convenient denomination of the value of 5s. Private soldiers, who for many years were paid in pence, were unable to trade with the shippers, as copper coin was token money, which, if its export had been allowed—as it was not—would have had an actual value of half its current rating. The disability of the private soldier to buy in the open market was, however, altered on Governor Bligh's arrival, for he issued their pay in paymaster's bills similar to those received by the officers.

The currency continued very much in the unsatisfactory condition described until the growing business of the country allowed of the opening of a bank. The proposal to establish a local bank had been brushed aside in 1812 by Lord Liverpool, who informed the Governor that silver to the value of £10,000 would be sent from India, in order to tide the colony over its currency difficulties. This remittance, however, far from satisfied the needs of the community, and the Bank of New South Wales was opened for business on the 8th April, 1817. Its capital amounted to £20,000, divided into 200 shares. The bank was incorporated under a regular charter, and its affairs were controlled by a president and six directors. Its paper soon became the principal circulating medium of the colony, and business was done in the discounting of bills of short date, and in the advance of money on mortgage securities. Government payments for provisions purchased locally continued to be made with receipts from the Commissary, which, when taken into the office, were consolidated by bills on the King's Treasury. Captains of vessels purchasing provisions in the colony drew bills on

the shipowners; while the commercial transactions of the inhabit
were conducted in currency dollars, copper, tradesmen's dockets, a
the notes of the Bank of New South Wales. It is a peculiar fa
characteristic of the period, that a debt of more than £300 was regard
as one of honour, in consequence of the abuse of the privilege of app
from the local courts to the King in Council.

When Major-General Lachlan Macquarie entered upon the gover
ment of the colony on the 1st January, 1810, the population number
10,454 persons. The settlement was bounded on the north, we
and south by the Blue Mountains, beyond which no one had then be
able to penetrate, though several attempts to do so had been made, a
it was the general opinion that farther than 60 miles away no li
suitable for tillage was likely to be found. Along the sea the colo
extended from Port Stephens to Jervis Bay, a distance of about 1
miles, and it was confidently stated that beyond these inlets settlement
could not expand, the ground actually in cultivation amounting to
rather more than 21,000 acres, together with 74,000 acres devoted to
pasture. Macquarie's term of office was, however, brightened by the
successful passage of Blaxland, Lawson, and Wentworth to the plains
beyond the mountains, and the subsequent discoveries of new areas for
settlement, which finally dissipated the idea, long entertained, that the
colony would cease to exist should the support it received from the
British Treasury be withdrawn.

SECOND INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1821–1838.

The second period of the industrial history of the colony begins with the assumption of office by Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane at the close of the year 1821, and includes the administration of Lieutenant-General Darling from the close of the year 1825 to that of 1831, and of Sir Richard Bourke from the close of the year 1831 to that of 1837. The area of the settlement was, during the whole of the period, continually being widened. In 1823 Allan Cunningham found a practicable route through Pandora's Pass to the rich Liverpool Plains. During the following year Lieutenant Miller formed at Moreton Bay an establishment which afterwards became the capital of Queensland. The first great journey of exploration by Major Mitchell to the north and north-west of New South Wales was entered upon in 1831. The journey proved rich in results, and added greatly to the knowledge of the colony's resources. The unlocking of territory had an emphatic influence on the development of the country's industries, as settlement followed close on the heels of the explorers, and tended to provoke interest in the minds of English speculators, a great deal of whose capital began to seek investment in station properties.

The labour legislation of this period did not depart to any appreciable extent from earlier ideas. Under the provisions of a regulation issued on the 17th July, 1828, servants neglecting or refusing to work, or absenting themselves from their employment, could be sent by a magistrate to the common gaol or the house of correction for a term not exceeding six or three months respectively, with forfeiture of all wages due; and servants spoiling, destroying, or losing property were obliged to pay double the value of the article injured or lost under a penalty of being committed to gaol for a term of from one to six months. On the other hand, a servant had remedy against an employer's ill-usage to the extent of six months' wages and cancellation of the agreement of service. Any person who employed a servant previously retained was liable to a fine of from £5 to £20, half of which was paid to the person aggrieved and half to the Benevolent Society. Subsequent labour legislation was even more repressive in its character, as will be seen later on.

The comparative scarcity of free labour and the high price which it commanded show forcibly the unprofitable nature of bond labour which, though available for little above the cost of rations, was for some considerable time a drug in the market. This was especially the case during the period of extensive immigration which occurred under the administration of Sir Thomas Brisbane. The Government, therefore, was hard set to provide suitable employment for the prisoners left on its hands, the number of whom was constantly being augmented by the arrival of transports from the United Kingdom. To enable the Government to dispose of this labour, it was decreed that any free settler having an order from the English authorities for a grant of land could, by pledging himself to employ twenty bond servants, obtain a grant of 2,000 acres. There were, indeed, instances of settlers obtaining this quantity of land even without such an order, simply upon guaranteeing to relieve the Government of the expense of maintaining twenty men; and in 1826 the weekly sum of 3s. 6d., which had been, since December, 1821, payable to the Government as hire for an assigned artisan, was abolished. Assignment, it will be seen, was really a device adopted by the Government for the maintenance of the bond population with as little outlay as possible, and land was given away, not so much with the view of encouraging settlement, as of inducing holders to relieve the authorities of the cost of maintaining prisoners, for whom no profitable employment could be provided by the Government. The continual immigration of free settlers, most of whom obtained grants of land, with the right of receiving an assignment of men proportionate to their grant, rapidly used up the supply of assignable persons; the government farms, which had been established for the purpose of keeping the convicts at work, were abandoned, and the penal settlements were broken up and their occupants distributed among those who wanted labour, until in Governor Darling's time the opposite condition was reached, and it was found impossible to satisfy the demand for assigned servants. The first result of the extended system of assignment of labourers to private employers was that every able-bodied man of orderly conduct was in specific employment, and the colony was left without any reserve of labour which could be called upon in an emergency, so that in harvest and shearing times there w occasionally a great scarcity of men. It was this need of hands emergent occasions that gave rise to the scheme of assisted immigrati which began to take effect in 1832.

The whole of the social, economic, and political literature of period was constantly insisting upon the growing disproportion betw the proprietary class in the colony, particularly capitalists who h invested in pastoral pursuits, and the labouring class, whose assist was absolutely necessary in the effort to realise returns; and ind ments of every description were held out to the agricultural peas of the United Kingdom to emigrate to the southern promised l The reports of the immigration committees are particulary interest as are also the schemes, more or less impracticable, advanced by phil thropic pamphleteers for the colonisation of the country. The desi to procure cheap labour was not the only influence at work in the p motion of immigration; there was also an earnest wish on the part some to secure population of desirable types in order to develop t resources of the country, and on the part of others to afford relief the distressed peasantry of the United Kingdom. Judging by a report a committee of immigrant mechanics, blacksmiths, carpenters, cabi joiners, stonemasons, stonecutters, and shoemakers easily found emplo ment; while for all kinds of field-labourers, bush hands, dairy han shepherds, and shearers, the demand was very strong.

The introduction of a system of assisted immigration marked a w change in the ideas of the governing powers since the departure o Governor Macquarie. Under his regime, not only was no encouragement offered to intending emigrants from England, but they were positively discouraged. This change of policy was due to the expanding effect that the opening up of new territory had on men's minds. So long as the colony was shut in by the barrier of the Blue Mountains so long was it possible to keep it mainly a penal settlement; but with the discovery of the western plains all hope of doing this completely vanished. As the expense of a passage from England or Ireland rendered it difficult for mechanics to make their way to the colony, the practice of paying a bounty for immigrants of a certain class was introduced. However, the number of mechanics brought out does not seem to have been large. The bounty was probably of most advantage to persons already in the colony who desired to bring out their women folk and children. There was, however, as already mentioned, a fair influx of non-bounty immigrants; but it is not likely that these included many mechanics or labourers. They were principally enterprising men of small means, and professional men anxious to practise in the colony, or failing that, to turn their hand to trade or squatting.

Lord Goderich, Secretary of State for the Colonies, being impress about this time, 1831, with the great disproportion existing betw the sexes, and desirous of remedying this state of things by the int duction of a number of unmarried female immigrants, recomme

ng aside of a portion of the revenue arising from the sale
n lands as a fund from which advances might be made, by
loan, to assist in paying the expenses of the passage of
persons. From this time forward it became customary to
he revenue derived from the sale of Crown lands as forming,
t of the income of the colony, but a reserve available for the
f meeting the annual expense of bringing to the colony immi-
our, of which, for long years, it was so sorely in need. In
was estimated that the revenue accruing from land sales
he ensuing year would be £10,000, and the appropriation of
unt towards the encouragement of the immigration of un-
females was sanctioned by the British authorities, with, how-
servation to the effect that no other appropriation of capital
from the sales of land in New South Wales should be made
expense of £10,000 should be liquidated. The sum contri-
each female immigrant was £8—half the estimated cost of the
ut, the other half being made up by the immigrant herself.
se of the funds proving deficient, a preference was to be given to
immigrating in company with their families over such as were
ed. It was subsequently recommended that a limited number
nics should also be assisted with advances to enable them to
; and agricultural labourers were afterwards included among
whom it was considered advisable to advance money by way of
n instalment of the passage-money to the colony. The system,
underwent certain changes from time to time, according to the
of the land fund, the need for labour, and the enterprise of
ettlers. In 1835 bounties were offered towards defraying the
of the passage of immigrants, to such settlers as would charge
es with their introduction. These were £30 for a married
or farm servant and his wife, the age of neither of whom
30 years; and £5 for each of their children over twelve
f age. For an unmarried female between 15 and 30 years of
um of £15 was allowed, and £10 for an unmarried mechanic
farm-servant between 18 and 25 years of age. Subsequently
m of assisted immigration was developed on other lines; but the
of introducing rural labourers and their families, single women,
ed artisans was steadily maintained throughout the whole of
d after its first adoption.

the regulations by which prisoners were assigned, employers
bidden to give their servants regular wages; but it is well
hat there were employers of assigned labourers who paid them
nd that printers, for instance, received as much as a guinea
more per week on account of their masters being under the
n that night-work could not otherwise be enforced. Butchers,
ths, and others received 5s. per week, besides food and clothing;
ers, however, maintained themselves. The wages paid to free
the first years of Brisbane's administration was, for artisans

and mechanics, from 5s. to 7s. per day without rations; and agricultural labourers in 1828 from £20 to £30 per annum with rations, and in some cases even £50. In the towns especially, artisans, such as carpenters, could at this time earn 50s. per week; but wheelwrights and blacksmiths received about 36s. per week, and unskilled labourers from 3s. to 5s. per day. Quarrymen appear to have been in special demand, and their labour has been recorded as worth 10s., and even 15s. and 20s. per day, though the last-mentioned amounts must have been given only in special cases. Compositors could obtain from [illegible] to 50s. a week; but clerks and professional men had few opportunities to obtain employment. In 1830, when the population had increased to 46,300, the services of artisans of various classes appear to have been greatly wanted, and for some years afterwards every description of labour was in brisk demand, although the remuneration of skilled mechanics remained unaltered. The following statement shows the average wages paid during the period, and includes the daily wage given to labourers not receiving board and lodging. The quotation of daily rates, however, is apt to be misleading, as few mechanics secured, even if they sought it, employment during the whole year. It is probable that common labourers did not earn more than from 4s. to 5s. per week with rations and lodgings, and mechanics of the highest qualifications did not average more than £2 per week the year round. Where no quotations are given in this and following tables no reliable information is available.

Trade or Calling.	1823.	1833.	1835.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Per day, without board and lodging.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Blacksmith	6 0	7 0	7 0	6 8	7 0
Bricklayer	6 0	5 0	6 6	7 3	6 6
Brickmaker, per 1,000	6 0	9 0	9 0	5 3	9 0
Cabinet-maker	6 0	6 0	6 0	6 4	6 0
Carpenter	6 0	6 0	6 9	6 4	6 6
Caulker	7 6	7 6	8 6	6 9	......
Cooper	6 0	6 0	7 6	6 6	7 6
Farrier	6 6	6 6	6 6	6 6	6 6
Ironfounder	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3
Labourer	3 0	3 0	4 0	4 6	4 6
Millwright	6 6	6 6	7 0	7 3	7 3
Painter	......	5 0	......	5 4	......
Plasterer	5 6	5 6	7 0	6 6	6 3
Quarryman	.....	5 6	5 0	5 6	4 6
Shoemaker	6 0	6 0	6 0	5 10	6 0
Stonemason	6 0	6 0	6 8	7 6	6 8
Tailor	......	5 6	6 0	......	6 6
Wheelwright	5 6	5 6	6 0	6 0	5 6
Per annum, with board and lodging.					
Agricultural labourer	22/10/-	22/10/-	22/10/-	22/10/-	25/-/-
Dairywoman	10/-/-	12/-/-	12/10/-	12/10/-	12/10/-

The wages of a shepherd during this period of the colony's history appear to have been from £20 to £30 per annum, and of a shepherd's watchman, £20 per annum. A ploughman's remuneration for six months' work was quoted in 1835 at £20. Piecework was paid for as follows:—Picking weeds off fallow ground, 2s. per acre; reaping, 8s. per acre; carrying, stacking, and thatching, 10s. per acre; and threshing grain from the ear, 6d. per bushel. The Select Committee of the Legislative Council, which sat in 1835, reported, after taking much evidence, that good mechanics could earn from 30s. to 40s. per week, and farm labourers from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per week with rations. One of the witnesses examined by the Committee stated that he paid shipwrights, coopers, and blacksmiths from 7s. to 8s., and sailmakers 6s. a day, adding, "We consider these wages too high, but find it impracticable to reduce them, as rather than take less the men will go out of work; and they can afford to do so, because the wages of three or four days will suffice to maintain them for a week." Another witness said he paid millwrights, blacksmiths, and engine-drivers 42s. per week, and that a good carpenter could earn £3 3s., and a stonemason from £3 to £4 per week. All the witnesses were agreed as to the difficulty of inducing labourers to move into the country districts—a difficulty that told so severely against the agricultural and pastoral industries that in 1838 another Select Committee was appointed to consider the questions of labour and immigration. In contemporary evidence, however, the allusions to the difficulty of obtaining good men and to the high wages enjoyed by mechanics should be accepted with some caution. In a population numbering under 98,000 the demand for good men must have been limited, while the presence of bond labour and the necessity of finding employment for it may be expected to have interfered very seriously with the regularity of the work to be obtained by free men. There was probably in the country districts a demand for skilled labourers in excess of the supply; but a glance at the foregoing table will show that the wages such men could earn did not offer an inducement at all commensurate with the discomforts and dangers which they expected to encounter.

Prior to the year 1827 tea and sugar were almost invariably included as part of the rations issued to servants; but owing to the straitened circumstances of the settlers, the result of unfavourable seasons, and a fall in the price of live stock, the place of these was taken by milk. The weekly ration, as fixed by Government, was as follows:—12 lb. wheat or 9 lb. seconds flour, or in lieu thereof, at the discretion of the master, 3½ lb. maize meal and 9 lb. wheat or 7 lb. seconds flour; 7 lb. beef or mutton, or 4½ lb. salt pork; 2 oz. salt, and 2 oz. soap. Any articles beyond these which the master might supply were to be considered as indulgencies, which he was at liberty to discontinue whenever he might think proper. In 1828 the crop of the colony was found insufficient for its needs. Grain had consequently to be imported, and a scarcity of breadstuffs was apprehended. The Governor, therefore, published a general order in which the rations issued to labourers the public service were reduced to 7 lb. of bread; and all persons settlers having in their employ assigned servants were earnestly re mended to adopt a similar scale, and to make up for the reduction increasing the ration of meat.

The prices of provisions fluctuated considerably, and especially this the case in reference to such as had to be imported. Locally duced provisions of all kinds were, however, generally plentiful moderate prices, the ruling rates in 1823-24 being as follow:—

	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Butter, per lb.	2 3	to	2 10	Fowls, per pair	3 4
Cheese, per lb.	1 3			Wheat, per bushel	8 0
Fresh pork, per lb.	0 6	,,	0 8	Maize, per bushel	[illegible]
Fresh beef, per lb.	0 6	,,	0 8	Barley, per bushel	5 0
Mutton, per lb.	0 6	,,	0 8	Potatoes, per cwt.	6 0
Bread, per lb.	0 3½			Eggs, per dozen	1 10

At this time only one market a week was held in Sydney; and Parramatta markets were held only twice or thrice a year. The drought which began in 1827 sent corn up to a very high figure, forced settlers to dispose of their live stock in order to buy grain the support of their household and establishments. All provisions, the exception of meat, which became very cheap indeed, rose in and the crisis was accentuated by the collapse of the sheep and speculation inaugurated a few years previously, about the time of formation of the Australian Agricultural Company. The price of from month to month ranged from 7s. to 14s. 9d. per bushel; of from 7s. to 10s. 6d. per bushel; of barley, from 4s. to 9s. 6d. per of hay, from £10 to £17 per ton; and of straw, from 20s. to 35s. per ton. The drought appears to have been almost general, and, in the words of a writer of the time, it had "blasted the whole country"; while the future prospect of subsistence diet was confined to a little water and an abundant supply of meat, which was being retailed at 1¾d. a lb. Fortunately for the colonists of New South Wales, the proximity of Van Diemen's Land, where an exceptionally good crop had just been gathered in, prevented many of the dire effects that must have followed in the wake of long-continued famine prices for grain. Pork was quoted at 8d. per lb., and all vegetables were advanced to twice their ordinary price, while they had deteriorated by half their usual quality. The Sydney market, in December, 1828, supplied the following quotations:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat, per bushel	9	0	Veal, per lb.	0	7
Maize, per bushel	11	0	Fowls, per pair	6	6
Flour, per 100 lb.	26	0	Ducks, per pair	9	0
Eggs, per dozen	3	0	Geese, each	10	0
Butter, per lb.	2	6	Turkeys, each	12	0
Bread, per 2 lb.	0	6½	Potatoes, per 112 lb.	25	0
Beef, per lb.	0	4	Barley, per bushel	5	6
Mutton, per lb.	0	5	Oats, per bushel	5	0
Pork, per lb.	0	8	Onions, per lb.	0	3

overnor, true to the traditions of his office, sought to meet the
f a season of drought by a general order, dated the 30th Septem-
, in which, with the view of enabling the bakers the better to
demands of the public, and of keeping down the price of bread
the means of the Government would permit, he signified his
, until the ensuing crop should be available, of putting up to
ale a portion of the wheat in the public stores on each succes-
ket day, in lots of 24 bushels each, for the accommodation of
dealers. These sales were to be conducted for ready money,
profit, if any, after defraying the cost of the wheat and the
ncurred by the Government in procuring it, was to be appro-
o a fund for the supply to poor settlers of seed-maize. Fat
this time were quoted at £3 per head, wethers and male lambs
ach, female lambs at £2, and ewes at £2 and £3. During
eat fell as low as 3s. per bushel, and rose in the latter part of the
high as 14s. Prices were, however, subject to much fluctua-
rticularly those for articles which were not produced in
try. The long absence of a ship from China with tea, or
Isle of France with sugar, sometimes produced a rise in the
these articles of 100 to 200 per cent., to be followed on
val of the vessel by a relapse to ordinary prices. In 1832
as sold at 7d. to 8d. per 2-lb loaf, and flour at 14s. to 15s.
lb. In 1835 beef was 2d. per lb., sugar 2½d., and tea 2s. per lb.
of flood or drought flour has been known to rise from £15 to
ton; and wheat from Van Diemen's Land fetched as much
er bushel in 1828. In 1834 the price of flour was 33s. per
and the reputed 2-lb. loaf sold at 8d.; maize was 3s. 6d. per
beef, by the quarter, 1½d. per lb.; mutton, by the carcase, 2½d.
pork and veal, 3½d.; salt beef, 2¾d.; bacon, 1s. 2d.; potatoes,
to 12s. per cwt.; tobacco, 6d. per lb.; mould candles, 8d.;
5d.; soap, 4d.; salt pork, 5d.; fresh butter, 1s. 10d.; salt
s. 4d.; cheese, 6d.; the 4lb. loaf, 1s. 2d.; fowls, 2s. per pair;
. 6d. per pair; geese and turkeys, 4s. each; and eggs, 1s. 3d.
n. Ration bread was frequently made from the meal of barley,
, buck-wheat, Indian corn, peas, beans, rice, and potatoes; and
ent classes of bread were distinguished as "Standard wheaten
"Household," and "Mixed."

ls in those days were high. In 1834 houses in Sydney, built
of ten years, and the whole expense of erecting which,
the lease-rent, did not exceed £200 each, were taken as
hey were completed at a weekly rental of 25s. In 1835 the
house of two rooms in Sydney was from 5s. to 10s. per week, and
of two or three rooms commanded 14s. per week rental. Few
ere supplied with water, so that an additional outlay was
to meet this necessity; yet single men could obtain board and
for 10s. 6d. per week, though the amount generally varied
12s. and 14s., if washing were included. Boots, shoes, coats,

hats, and other articles of clothing appear to have been exceedingly d

The principal articles of manufacture were coarse woollen clot cabbage-tree hats, salt, candles, leather, boots, and drain-pipes and oth earthenware. The export of wool rose very rapidly. Excluding t produce of Tasmania, in 1821 it was 175,400 lb.; in 1825, 324,000 l and in 1830, 2,000,000 lb. The surplus produce of the coal-mines Newcastle, after the wants of the Government establishments had b supplied, were authorised by a Government order, dated the 9th M 1822, to be sold at the pits to those wishing to purchase at a fixed r of 10s. 6d. per ton, and the proceeds of such sales were collected at t Customs as the cargoes came to be discharged in Sydney. From t commencement of the year 1828 the revenue from these sales w directed to be paid over to the Commissariat Department as a co tribution towards the maintenance of the bond population. The annu production of coal was usually about 4,000 tons. The mines we afterwards transferred to the Australian Agricultural Company.

During this period repeated efforts were made to improve the conditi of the currency and reduce it to a fixed standard of sterling value an denomination. Up to 1826 the circulating media were mainly Spani dollars and notes of the Bank of New South Wales expressed in Spani dollars. A Government order, dated the 5th February, 1823, direct that the public accounts should be kept in dollars and cents, and th order remained in force up to the end of the year 1825. It continu however, to be the almost universal practice in the colony to expre all rates and sums in the first instance under British denomination thereby rendering it necessary, before any sum could be brought to accou as prescribed in the general order, to calculate the amount in dollars, and the inconvenience of the operation was further increased by the diversity in the nominal value set upon the dollar. In ordinary business transactions this coin was rated at 5s.; in payment of the salaries of civil officers, at 4s., and from the 1st July, 1825, at 4s. 4d.; in the issue of pay to the military, at 4s. 8d.; and in the collection of Colonial dues, at the highest rate for which it was received by the latest public tenders made to the Commissariat. It is readily conceivable that so anomalous a system must have been attended with great inconvenience. It was determined, therefore, by the Lords Commissioners of the King's Treasury, to introduce into the several colonies a uniform currency of sterling denomination, and in furtherance of such determination British silver and copper money was sent to the Commissariat Department in the year 1826 to the amount of £50,200; in the following year to the amount of £13,210; and in 1829 to the amount of £20,000; giving for the years mentioned a total sum of £83,410. Thes remittances, with the sums introduced by private individuals, whi were estimated at from £40,000 to £50,000, furnished the settlem with a circulating medium of British coin amounting to £130,0 Nevertheless, up to the year 1829 transactions between indivi continued to be regulated partly in British coinage or in Spanish dol

declared sterling value of 4s. 4d. each, and partly with reference
former rate of the dollar, viz., 5s. ; or, to employ the common
ation by which these two standards were distinguished, partly in
ing," and partly in "currency." The tradesman's notes of this
were almost invariably expressed in "currency" denomination,
e rewards offered for various services in the columns of the con-
rary press nominated amounts in Spanish dollars. After the arrival
new coinage, as shown by contemporary evidence, the Colonial
ry was for some time obliged to issue the dollar at its declared
g value of 4s. 4d.

nnection with the question of the country's currency it is interest-
note a general order, dated the 22nd September, 1828, in which
vernor announced his willingness to receive the ring dollars and
issued under the proclamation of Macquarie in 1813, and to
for them bills at the same rate as for British coin on the Lords
issioners of the King's Treasury, or to give in exchange for them
coin to the value of 3s. 3d. sterling for the ring, and 1s. 1d. for
mp; but in a general order issued in 1829, sterling value of
ncy" issued to troops was affixed to the French 5-franc piece, the
piece, and the franc; to the Sicilian dollar, or scudo, the piece-
y, and the piece-of-twenty; to the Spanish dollar; to the United
dollar; and to the Calcutta, Bombay, and Surat rupee. Indeed,
mination of foreign currency seems to have been a very slow process.
period under notice was marked by considerable mercantile and
tive activity. In 1826 the Bank of Australia was instituted,
1832 the Savings Bank was established by the Governor in
il, the latter institution allowing interest on deposits at the rate
r cent. per annum, with a division among the depositors of the
s interest at the end of each year. The same epoch is famous
r the establishment of the Australian Agricultural Company,
immediate influence upon the development of the country was
together of a favourable nature. The Australian Marine Assur-
ompany was established in 1831.

to the time of the advent of Sir Richard Bourke, the Governors
en empowered to make grants of Crown lands to private indi-
, and charges were frequently insinuated of undue favouritism,
it by no harsher word; and a retiring Governor was severely
anded for making a grant to his successor, who, on assuming the
ment, made a similar grant to his predecessor. But in 1831
from the Colonial office directed the introduction of a new
with regard to the disposal of the colony's Crown lands. All
ants were to be confined to such as were made to schools,
es, and other public institutions, and the only other method of
ion permitted was to be by sale at public auction, under a form
ricted competition. Prior to the limitation of the system of
grants of land, immigrants were entitled to receive from the
or 1 square mile of territory for every £500 of capital immediately

available for its cultivation, to the extent of 4 square miles
acres—the limit within which the Governor was authorised t
grants to one individual. Persons possessed of a capital le
£250, clear of all expenses of reaching the colony, were for a lo
not considered as eligible to receive grants of land; but a sub
regulation extended the privilege to them, as well as to na
the colony who were of good character, the grant in such cas
prising from 50 to 100 acres in any of the districts which had l
apart for the settlement of small farmers. The condition of
was actual residence upon the land granted. The regulation
which the grants were made were quashed by Viscount G
afterwards Lord Ripon, who set upon all unalienated land
colony a minimum price of 5s. per acre. With the institution
agrarian law, the industrial history of New South Wales enter
a new phase of development.

THIRD INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1838–1843.

The third period in the industrial history of the colony may
to have opened under favourable auspices. Immigration was enc
by votes of public money, and, as a consequence, the population
five years increased by nearly 80 per cent., or at the rate of mo
15,000 a year. Settlement in the southern portions was gr
spreading, the discoveries made by Sir Thomas Mitchell and
having thrown open to occupation large areas of country, which
trade of all kinds a powerful impetus—an impetus which was
rated by the amendment of the land laws. At the beginning
period all available Crown lands could be rented under lease
term of one year. The lease was put up to public auction at a
of 20s. for each section of 1 square mile. In the event of t
being sold, the lessee was required to surrender it on one
notice. Should the land not be sold, the lease was again pu
auction, whether the occupant made application to that effect
but should it not be re-let the fact was notified accordingly
minimum price of land was raised by Act of Parliament in
20s. an acre, although, of course, it sometimes fetched very higl
in select localities.

This raising of the minimum price of Crown lands immediately o
as a check upon the land sales, the revenue derived from this source
dwindling away almost to nothing. In 1839 the sale of Crow
realised £152,962; in 1840, £316,626; in 1841, £90,387; i
£14,574; in 1843, £11,297; and in 1844, £7,402. It was an
stood thing that the money received from the sale of the Crow
was to be devoted exclusively to the promotion of immigration
replenishment of the colony's labour supply, without which cul
could not be extended in an equal ratio with the acquisition of
by capitalists and settlers; but when the land fund was exhaust

necessarily an end to bounty-fed immigration, and Sir George s, in his anxiety to raise money for this purpose, embroiled himself the squatters by imposing upon them special agrarian legislation, h they considered particularly grievous and unjust. The previous rnor, Sir Richard Bourke, had treated the natural pasturage ted outside the "boundaries of location" as commonage, equally able to all desirous of making use of it for depasturing their flocks herds, provided that it was not wanted by permanent settlers, and fore he demanded from squatters making use of it only a yearly se fee of £10, to which was subsequently added, at the instance of pastoral licensees, a small imposition of so much a head on all s, sheep, and cattle, in order to provide for the establishment and ort of a border police for service in the squatting districts. Under Gipps regime, as the revenue from the sale of land had failed, it was ght that the squatters could be compelled to contribute to it by hasing land at the minimum price, and thus to supply funds for igration purposes. This measure of the Governor was met by a ter effort on the part of the squatters, who laboured, and that ssfully, to obtain regular leases of their squattages, with fixity of re and pre-emptive rights. A war of interests was thus created een the pastoral and agricultural industries which took years of tion and much legislation to allay.

e practice of assigning prisoners to selectors ceased about the nning of this period. The dispatch directing Governor Bourke to ntinue the system was dated 26th May, 1837, and the system came end in 1838. This event made the introduction of free labourers st imperative, and led to the activity in immigration already red to. A Master and Servant's Act, passed during the adminison of Sir George Gipps, throws considerable light upon the itions of labour during the period. This measure provided that eers, manufacturers, journeymen, workmen, shepherds, labourers, other servants, who should refuse to serve the time of their gements or return or leave any work uncompleted, or who should nt themselves from or refuse to work, might, upon the oath of one ore credible persons, be brought before two justices of the peace, upon conviction, in cases where the amount due for work done did not ed £30, be adjudged to forfeit all or part of the wages due at the proceedings were instituted, and to pay a sum not exceeding twice amount of any damage incurred through neglect, absence, or other e. In default of payment, the offender was committed to the mon gaol, without bail or mainprize, for any time not exceeding calendar months, unless the amount in which he was mulct was er paid. Masters against whom judgment had been given for very of wages could, upon non-payment, be moved against by distress sale, and for want of sufficient distress could be sent to gaol for a not exceeding three calendar months if the claim was not sooner fied. Servants obtaining advances and afterwards absconding or refusing to perform the work for which they had been engaged, cou also be sent to gaol for a term not exceeding three calendar months, to the house of correction, with hard labour, for the same term; and all these proceedings against workmen there was no need to prove signatures of witnesses to indentures of service. Persons employi servants whose engagements with other persons had not expired w fined not more than £20, nor less than £5; and the servant who co be proved to have spoiled, destroyed, or lost property was adjudged pay double the value of such property, and also, if a male, committ to gaol for a term not exceeding three calendar months. Fem offenders were exempt from being sent to gaol under the provisions the Act. Such were the restraints imposed upon both masters a workmen, and such the restrictive legislation, enforced with fines a imprisonment with hard labour, which the wisdom of our forefathe evolved to stimulate the industries of the young colony, and to ensu its development.

An interesting relic of the period is preserved in the form of a labour agreement. So many disputes arose between master and men respecting wages and conditions of service that it became customary for employers and workmen to have written agreements. The following is a copy of one such document:—"Prosser's Plains, December, 1842. The undersigned, John Gudge, agrees to serve Mr. Nathaniel Olding as a farm servant on such work as may be required, to assist as gardener, or any other work, to work as a shoemaker for the family and establishment when required, for one year, for the sum of £25. One month's notice to be given. The weekly rations to consist of 12 lb. flour, or 14 lb. bread; 9 lb. mutton or beef, or 6 lb. pork; 1½ lb. sugar; and 2 oz. tea. All other things which John Gudge may require are to be charged against him as part payment of his wages."

When the State was compelled, by reason of lack of money, to leave the settlers to their own efforts in regard to procuring labour, various schemes were propounded by which a continuous and cheap supply might be obtained, and some of these were carried into effect. Mr. Benjamin Boyd introduced several shipments of natives from Tanna and the New Hebrides, and employed them as shepherds; but the experiment proved a failure, as the islanders would not apply themselves to the work. Moreover, the local legislature interfered, and interdicted, by enactments, what it regarded in the light of an attempt to establish a new slave trade. The attention of the colonists was, however, chiefly directed to the possibility of procuring labour from the East Indies or from China, but immigration from such sources was deemed inadvisable or unattainable. An agitation on the part of employers anxious to engage cheap labour from India was begun, only to be quenched shortly afterwards by a wave of counter-agitation on the part of the free labourers of the colony. The largest public meeting ever held in New South Wales up to that time was convened to protest against the introduction of hill coolies from India. In the city of Sydney

4,500 signatures were obtained to a petition on this subject for n to the Queen; and Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the xpressed, under date the 29th September, 1843, his disapproval ect, and refused to it the sanction of the Imperial Government. mittee on Immigration, in its report to Sir George Gipps, t in consequence of the great dearth of labour, particularly of bour, the flock-masters had been driven to exhaust every to increase the service derivable from the number of men yed. Three or four times the ordinary and proper tale of it was reported, been placed under the charge of each indipherd, and many squatters had been forced to abandon the lambs in consequence of being unable to provide for the care ted flocks. The demand for labour of a pastoral character have been continuous; and fresh employers were ever nd adding their demands for labour to those of the existing

ed is an interesting return of the immigrants who arrived outh Wales during the year 1840, and of the amounts at were engaged :—

Males, per annum, with rations.

	£		£
cultural labourers ...	25	54 Grooms and coachmen	30
rs.....	50	6 Millers	40
hers	40	35 Ploughmen	26
s	35	1 Seaman	48
estic servants	30	108 Shepherds	27
overseers	40	2 Shopkeepers	40
eners	40	8 Stockmen	27

Males, per day, without rations.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
ksmiths	7	0	1 Nailer	3	6
and shoe makers ...	6	8	24 Painters and glaziers	6	0
ier	6	8	4 Plasterers	6	0
klayers	7	0	1 Plumber	6	0
kmakers	7	0	11 Printers	8	0
net-makers	7	6	6 Quarrymen	5	0
enters and joiners...	8	0	13 Saddle and harness makers	6	0
ers	6	8	13 Sawyers	10	0
iers	6	0	3 Shipwrights	10	0
neers	10	0	41 Tailors	7	0
ch-polisher	6	8	9 Tinsmiths	6	0
ns	7	0	9 Turners	7	0
and wheelwrights...	6	8	2 Upholsterers	7	0
rs	5	0	5 Watchmakers	8	6

Females, per annum, with rations.

	£		£
et-makers	14	17 Kitchen-maids	14
s	20	12 Ladies' maids	20
smakers	18	2 Laundresses	18
servants	14	14 Milliners	20
ral servants	16	35 Nursery-governesses	20
semaids	15	138 Nurse-maids	10

In Sydney and other towns it was customary to hire workmen wages only, lodgings and rations being their own concern; but in country, not only shepherds and pastoral workers generally, but bl smiths and wheelwrights and other artisans were lodged and rati according to a regular scale. At the beginning of the period, carpent smiths, masons, shipwrights, wheelwrights, cabinet-makers, plumb and glaziers, harness makers and shoemakers could earn from 5s. to per day; working overseers, gardeners, and woolsorters varying from £30 to £70 per annum, together with lodging and ratio ploughmen, stockmen, shepherds, and brickmakers, from £15 to £ with lodging and rations; and labourers from £15 to £25 with lodg and rations, the rates of wages being regulated according to capabilities of the workmen.

In 1839 there was a great increase in wages, an ordinary mecha being able to earn from 8s. to 12s. per day, and a farm labourer fr £20 to £30, with, of course, a hut to live in and his rations; but far as artisans' wages were concerned their increase was coincid with a rise in the price of provisions. In the year 1840 contempora opinion pronounces wages as being very high; shepherds, for instance, receiving from £30 to £40 a year and rations; labourers in Sydney sometimes as much as 7s. and 8s. per day; and female domestic servants £20 a year, with board and lodging. These were considerable advances on the wages of the old assignment times, when free labour was thought to be amply remunerated at £14 and £16 per year and rations. Wag fell in 1841, when mechanics could be hired at 7s. 6d. or 8s. per d farm servants at £22 per year, and domestics at £12. In 1843 the wages of station servants, shepherds, hut-keepers, and others declined to £18 per annum, and even less. Sheep-shearing was paid for at the rate of 15s. per 100, and sheep-washing at 3s. per 100. The rations served out were valued at £12 per annum, and comprised flour, meat, tea, and sugar.

In 1838 and 1839 the crops failed, and in 1840 they partially failed; and during these three years, also, the price of wool declined from 2s. to 1s. per lb. For provisions in 1838, contemporary quotations were as follow:—Potatoes, from 7s. to 15s. per cwt.; bread, 4½d. per 2-lb. loaf; beef and mutton, from 4d. to 5d. per lb.; cabbages, from 2d. to 4d. each; flour, best, 17s. per cwt., and seconds, 13s. per cwt. The year 1839 was, however, a year of drought and scarcity, and prices rapidly rose to the position already indicated. Flour ranged from £50 to £ per ton; cattle from £8 to £10 per head; and sheep from 30s. to £2 per head. Clean wheat was quoted at £1 2s. 6d. per bushel; hay at £18 per ton; and fresh butter at 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb. Bread was sold at 7d. per 2-lb. loaf, with a subsequent rise to 8d.; potatoes from 1d. to 2½d. per lb.; meat, from 3d. to 5d. per lb.; and the prices of other articles in common use were proportionate. The colony was at this time greatly dependent upon Van Diemen's Land for sup of wheat and flour. Much of the grain-growing land in New South

ecially that adjacent to Sydney, had gone out of cultivation
haustion, and the increased interest taken in the raising of
rseded agriculture to a considerable extent, and a period of
once threw the parent colony on the grain resources of the
n the period embraced from the year 1838 to the 22nd
843, no less than 1,120,462 bushels of wheat, inclusive of that
flour, were exported from Van Diemen's Land, the greater
which found its way to Sydney.

eginning of the year 1840 the price of flour in Sydney ranged
to £41 per ton, and wheat was selling at 12s. to 13s. per
ut as the year advanced wheat went steadily up in price, and
af was 1s. 6d. Quotations for butchers' meat in the carcase
low:—Beef, 7d. per lb.; mutton, 5½d.; and pork, 10d. In
of August flour at the Sydney mills ranged from £30 to £36
om £30 to £31 for seconds, and £28 for ration. A visitor
at this time quotes the following prices for various articles of

	s.	d.		s.	d.
s, each	25	0	Eggs, each	0	4
ach	12	0	Butter, per lb.	4	0
per pair	8	0	Milk, per quart	1	0
s, per pair	6	0	English ale, per glass	0	6

il prices of provisions in Sydney for the quarter ending 31st
1841, were quoted as follow:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
per bushel...	6	8½	Meat, fresh, per lb.	0	4¾
er lb., from 3½d. to	0	4¼	Salt, per lb.	0	2¼
r lb.	4	9	Soap, per lb.	0	9¼
per lb.	0	5¼	Tobacco, per lb.	4	10¼

as a general decline in the prices of provisions in 1842, when
towns ranged from 2½d. to 4d. per lb., and mutton from 2d.
e price of flour during the same period ranged from £14 to
n. In 1843 wheat in Sydney ruled, according to quality,
ortion of the year, from 4s. to 5s. per bushel; and flour from
6 per ton. Meat was sold at 1d. per lb., and tea at 1s. 8d.
t the end of the year wheat was selling in Sydney at 4s. 6d.
while the prices in the other Australian cities were as fol-
bart, 3s. 9d.; Melbourne, 3s. 6d.; and Adelaide, 2s. 6d. per

ent and lodgings were very high-priced in Sydney, although
ntry districts they were reasonably cheap. A house suitable
idence of a mechanic and his family cost from 15s. to 18s.
From the Census of 1841 it would appear that the demand
ntial accommodation so considerably exceeded the supply
e were compelled to take up their quarters in habitations

still in the hands of the builder, no less than 809 such dwellings being occupied prior to their completion. In the country districts a hut suitable for the residence of an agricultural labourer cost to erect about £10; but it was, of course, a very inferior description of building.

Notwithstanding the salubrity of the climate, and the reiteration of different writers as to the small amount of clothing necessary to be worn in New South Wales as compared with the United Kingdom, labourers, and particularly agricultural labourers, required a quantity of strong clothing, apart altogether from any question of climate; and this in the year 1840, when wages were regarded as being particularly high, was fairly expensive. In 1842, when wages had fallen considerably, the cost of clothing still remained sufficiently high to constitute a serious drain on the earnings of a man in receipt of 6s. or 7s. per day, or from £19 to £20 per year with rations. According to a list of prices, bearing date 30th June, 1842, the following quotations represent the cost of the most necessary articles of clothing, and of some other goods, on that date:—

Men's Clothing.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Coloured shirts, each	0	3	3	Boots, per pair	0	10	0
Flush trousers, per pair	0	12	0	Socks, per pair	0	1	6
Moleskin trousers, per pair	0	12	0	Vests, each	0	4	0
Moleskin jackets, each	0	12	0	Shepherd's coats, each	1	10	0
Straw hats, each	0	5	0	Handkerchiefs, each	0	1	0

Women's Clothing.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chemises, each	0	5	0	Aprons, each	0	2	0
Petticoats, each	0	10	0	Stockings, per pair	0	2	6
Gowns (print), each	0	10	0	Shoes, per pair	0	7	6
Bonnets and caps (print), each	0	9	3	Stays ,,	0	15	0
Shawls, each	0	10	0	Merino dresses, each	1	5	0

Other goods.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Blankets, per pair	0	12	0	Rugs, each	0	5	0
Mattresses, each	0	12	0				

Clothing was, however, the only thing which the yearly servant was obliged to purchase, save articles of luxury, such as tobacco, for which he might have a desire; abundance of the common necessaries of life, such as meat, bread, tea, and sugar, together with a hut to live in, being provided by the employer. From £7 to £10 per year might be allowed for the purchase of such rough clothing as was necessary for bush wear; hence, although the cost of living had increased considerably, the ultimate wages that remained to the labourer were higher during this period than at any time since the foundation of the colony. These rates were not, however, long maintained. The position of the mechanic in the towns was somewhat different from that of the agricultural labourer in the bush. The former, besides having to bear the cost clothing himself, was obliged to rent a house to live in or to hire lodgin

hase food and fuel ; but a mechanic earning £125 per year
£62 to cover the expenses of his own rations, including
t, tea, and sugar, and house rent, fuel and clothing, and he
have £63 left with which to provide for a wife and family,
as a considerable advance on the labour conditions of the
eriod, or such as were obtaining in England.

ning years of the period were marked by the floating of
auction, steam navigation, and other joint stock companies,
ral speculative activity. Capital for investment on behalf of
npanies and on private account was abundant. The cessation
tation, however, though it ultimately proved advantageous
nunity, had an immediate result in stopping the expenditure
y of large sums from the British Exchequer ; and the effects of
on of expenditure became visible almost simultaneously with
fter the inflation of 1839 and the following year. Prices
ty became depreciated in value, and ruin impended. The
he Government helped to bring matters to a crisis. The
the land sales, amounting at one time to fully £350,000,
in the banks, and the highest rates of interest were exacted ;
banks were obliged to reissue in discounts the proceeds of
ical sales, the original purchase-money for which was repre-
aper. When the bounty system of immigration was at its
Government drew out their deposits almost as rapidly as
lodged them. This action obliged the banks to suddenly
ir discounts, and gave the initial downward impulse to the
ket.

he fashion at the time to attribute all the reverses suffered
ony to a cessation of the system of assignment of bond
t this was obviously not the case, although it cannot be
the condition of affairs was temporarily made more acute
cy of the Government. The period was one of commercial
ransition and adjustment, during which fresh financial and
conditions were being arranged, and the community was
ly preparing itself for vast changes and new developments.
n was the order of the day, and hundreds availed themselves
lvency law, which came into operation on the 1st February,
which was designated by the satirists of the time as
Purge," in allusion to the author of the legislation. A list of
nts in Sydney and its neighbourhood, from the last-mentioned
4th August of the same year, a period of six months and four
ed a sheet larger than a page of the *Morning Herald*, and
e names of 392 persons and firms. The liabilities of some
tes were, considering the times, enormous, ranging from five
enty, thirty, forty, and fifty thousand pounds, while one
for £175,235. The total amount of the liabilities of these
nts was, in round numbers, a million and a quarter sterling,
any of them were able to show good assets. From the 1st

February, 1842, to the 31st December, 1843, the insolvents num no less than 1,135; and of these 600 belonged to the eleven m ending the 31st December, 1842, and 535 to the succeeding During 1843 a local ordinance was passed for the abolition of i ceration for debt, and came into operation on the 1st April o same year.

The failures caused credit to sustain a general and severe s there was an extreme contraction of the ordinary course of tr total absence of speculation in business, and, consequently, a diminution in the amount of legitimate transactions. Vigorous e were made to realise funds for the discharge of existing debts property was forced into the market for sale until purchasers hardly be found at any price, and the inevitable result was that pe known to be possessed of large properties were unable to meet engagements. In most of the country districts orders on Sydney were the medium of circulation used by the settlers, and when the longer passed current, as in times of confidence and prosperity, (which did not really exist) was demanded, and thus great sac were rendered compulsory, because property, though of intrinsic v possessed no exchangeable value. Historians of the period narrate of enforced sales in which sheep fetched very small prices, somet as little as 6d. being obtained for them, while cattle occasionally re as little as 7s. 6d., and valuable horses only £3 each.

The Legislative Council, imagining that the very existence of colony was threatened by the prevailing state of things, sough "avert ruin" (to use their own expression) by "pledging the p credit," but the Governor refused the Royal assent to the Bill p for that purpose. It was then proposed to issue Treasury bills, bu Council would not entertain the idea. The failure of the Ban Australia, the liability of whose shareholders was unlimited, bro affairs to a crisis, and it was proposed to relieve the shareholders Bill empowering the bank to dispose of its assets by a public lot No attempt was made to defend lotteries in general, but it was tended that if the goods of proprietors of the bank were seized execution, the bailiff would be seen in possession of one house in ever in Sydney, and the result would be a panic which would altog annihilate the value of property. Under pressure of such an argu as this, the "Lottery Bill" passed, but was disallowed by the B authorities. The necessity of the case was so urgent, however, th lottery took place, and was successfully completed before the law o of the Crown could interfere to prevent it.

When matters were at their worst, and the price of sheep had f as a common quotation, to 1s. per head, there was made what was as a "great discovery," viz., the boiling down of sheep exclusiv tallow, for which product there was then a good market in B The price of sheep was thus raised to 3s. or 4s. per head, 5s. or 6s. of tallow being obtained by the process of boiling down. Consequ in a brief space of time tallow began to occupy a chief place as an article of export with wool and coal. Other staple products were sperm oil, black whale and sea-elephant oil, seal-skins, wattle-bark, salt beef, hides, sheep-skins, and kangaroo-skins. The meat-canning industry was attempted by Mr. Sizar Elliott, of Charlotte-place, Sydney, and by Mr. Laidley, but it was not a success financially, although the preserved meats were, it is said, of excellent quality.

Commercial relations were opened up during the period with Hong Kong, as well as with British India; and the trade, which was principally in horses, was of a profitable character. For some of the general exports of the colony, the prices ruling in the London market in the year 1840 were as follow:—Bark (mimosa), per ton, £11 to £12; gum (kino), per cwt., £20 to £30; hides, per lb., 3¾d. to 4¾d.; oil (southern), per tun, £24 to £25 10s.; sperm oil, per tun, £110 to £111; whalebone, per ton, £135; wool, per lb., 10d. to 2s. 7d.; and cedar, per feet, 4½d. to 5½d. During the year 1839, the exports of the product of the southern fisheries comprised 12,029 tuns of black oil, valued at £41,341, despatched principally to Great Britain; and 12,079 tuns of sperm oil, valued at £111,280. The fisheries were, however, an industry which the colony was outgrowing, and they were being eclipsed in the value of their export by wool. In the year 1840 the product of the fisheries exported was valued at £224,144, while the wool exported was valued at £566,112, and the latter thenceforward began to be regarded as the leading staple of the colony. Towards the close of the period the whale and seal fisheries became gradually diverted from Sydney control into the hands of Americans, who subsequently absorbed almost the entire industry in Southern waters. Some of the products of the fisheries continued to find their way to Sydney for re-export after the industry ceased to be prominently Australian, but even this advantage to the port was lost shortly after the gold discovery.

FOURTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1843–1852.

This epoch in the industrial history of the Colony is intimately associated with the names of Sir George Gipps and Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy. The closing years of the previous period were, as just narrated, marked by financial failures and general insolvency. It was a time when a live sheep was found to be worth less than the fat of a dead one; when wool had fallen 50 per cent. in price in the London market; when the profit derived from the whaling industry was suffering a serious shrinkage; when all commercial activity was in a condition of languishment, and speculation was practically at an end.

Although the year 1843 ushered in a period of depression and long-continued distress, an intermittent system of immigration was carried on, but not nearly to the extent desired by the settlers. Nevertheless, while the Legislative Council was petitioning for the continuous introduction of a due supply of shepherds and agricultural labourers, the Government during the same year was compelled to give employment to a great number of labourers. Many workers left the colony for Valparaiso and other places, and certain discontented immigrants had departed from Port Phillip for the Cape of Good Hope. The probability is that it was not labour which was hard to obtain, but "cheap" labour, and to meet this demand various expedients were resorted to, the one finding most favour being the proposal, revived from time to time, to introduce hill coolies from India. This proposition was, however, not only opposed by the people of the colony, but, as before stated, the Secretary of State refused to it the sanction of the British authorities.

The demand for labour at this period was confined almost wholly to shepherds and other pastoral workers and domestics. The Governor, in despatches under date of August and September, 1843, stated that in Sydney considerable numbers of workmen had been thrown out of employment in consequence of the check that the building trade had received by the general pecuniary distress and the reduction in house-rents, and he added that the arrival of immigrants in any great numbers under such circumstances must prove injurious to all parties. But the policy pursued by the Legislature, which represented exclusively the interests of the propertied class, was to promote competition in the ranks of labour by excessive immigration. During the year 1844, as many as 10,000 and 12,000 immigrants were demanded as an annual "export" from the United Kingdom; but the sales from the waste-lands of the colony had practically ceased and there was no other fund from which the passage of immigrants could be paid, and great discontent was manifested because the British Government entered into a contract for the free transmission of only 4,000 adults. In 1846 requests were made by the Legislative Council for the despatch from the United Kingdom to New South Wales of 12,500 emigrants annually, to be made up of 4,000 or more men, an equal number of women, and, in the case of married couples, of an equal proportion of children; the same ratio of immigration to be continued for a period of not less than three years. The Governor recommended that the immigrants imported at the public expense during the year in question should number 4,000; and during the ensuing two years, 9,000. The fact is, that elaborate calculations were for ever being made of a proportionate occupation of new lands, and a proportionate increase in flocks and herds, based on the experience of past prosperous periods. No allowance was made for the possibility of the new areas opened up turning out sterile, arid, and unadapted for grazing purposes; no discount was allowed for flood or drought, or a fall in the price of the staple; hence the requisitions for the introduction of labour for years ahead were nearly always based upon an over-estimate, and the unfortunate immigrants were, of course, the principal sufferers.

Many of the large stock-holders of this period were enthusiasticall favour of a return to the old system of the assignment of bond lab ough the inhabitants of the towns were naturally just as keen ments as the property-owners were advocates of that policy. The me of compromise proposed by the British Government met with e favour from either party, and the idea of making the colony a ationary dumping-ground for holders of tickets-of-leave, who had provisionally punished in the English hulks prior to being deported a sojourn of a reformatory character in a distant colony, among pidly-increasing free community, was scouted with vehemence on rly every side, although an influential minority worked steadily its accomplishment. It was generally argued that the adoption of a system must utterly destroy the value of free labour and annihilate es, while the mere fact that New South Wales had managed to slip early shackles was held by many to be a sufficient reason for sting any attempt to reimpose them, no matter what euphemism ht be adopted to cloak the movement.

considerable number of the flockmasters held the view—a perfectly onable one—that while the morale of the probationers would be better, and probably, on account of greater license, much worse that of the assigned servants of a former day, their own punitive rol over their labourers would be very much less. The free igrants, compelled to work for their living as employés of rs, scented dangerous competitors, whose introduction into the ny might result in a depreciated wage; and the employers of the ncipated class saw only the revival of a caste reproach, and the ndescence of hated social distinctions. It must not, however, be gined that Lord Stanley and Earl Grey acted with any special nsiderateness in continuing the transportation of convicts to New th Wales and Van Diemen's Land. The great employers, the rbers of "abundant and cheap labour," were the real rulers of the ntry. From their ranks were chosen the members of the Legislative ncil; they had the ear of the Governor; and the Governor, in turn, the ear of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; while the English horities were only too anxious to relieve the over-crowded condition their gaols. Two powerful interests, therefore, were allied in an rt to re-establish transportation and the system of assignment. To t this threatening combination, a number of public meetings were l in Sydney under the auspices of the Anti-transportation League, an overwhelming expression of popular opinion, most vehemently erse to the scheme, was given; nevertheless the British Government, ler the advice of Sir Charles Fitzroy, persisted in its endeavours to e prisoners upon the unwilling inhabitants of the colony.

Several ship-loads of convicts were sent out, and an attempt was made and them at the new settlement at Port Phillip. The settlers there, ever, would not tolerate the proceeding, whereupon the ships e compelled to leave for Sydney and Moreton Bay. One of the sels, named the Hashemy, cast anchor in Port Jackson, on the 8th e, 1849, and there instantly ensued a serious contest between the inhabitants and the Executive. Immediately upon the fact bee publicly known that the Hashemy was off the Heads with co on board, the people of the metropolis were lashed into a fe excitement, and a great public meeting was forthwith conve consider what steps should be taken in this pressing emergency was universally considered. The result was that the Governme fit to forbid the landing of the prisoners at that time, not caring t the obloquy and public indignation which the adoption of any course would certainly have brought upon them. As, however, th hemy could not be sent back, and her prisoners could not perma remain on board, a compromise was entered into. The prisoner removed from the ship, and a large number sent to Moreton B order that the settlers in that district might have an opportu hiring them. The remainder were allowed to be assigned to w persons in the colony, though it was stipulated that the men not be landed in Sydney, nor employed in the county of Cumbe

The Legislative Council afterwards proceeded to take action i matter, and a resolution was prepared to the effect "that an a be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the Order-in-Council declared New South Wales a colony to which convicts might be be at once revoked." The adjournment of the Council was, how agreed to before the motion could be put. In consequence of this p shelving of the question a great public meeting was held, at which i decided to petition the Council to use its utmost endeavours to p the revival of transportation in any form. The petition, within a time, was signed by upwards of 35,000 persons, or by more than thirds of the population of Sydney. There was no resisting this festation of public opinion, and the pro-transportation members t rarily withdrew from the Council, whereupon the motion just was carried unanimously, and the address to the Queen was accor transmitted. The Order-in-Council was revoked, and transportat New South Wales was thus, after many years of fretful agitati both sides, finally abolished.

With the disappearance of the convict from the stage of ind life, the immigrant became an object of greater attention than before. Various schemes were mooted by the sheep and cattle br to procure labour at the old rates. One of these schemes was the duction of expired-sentence men from Van Diemen's Land, and ations were formed for the purpose, both in the parent colony Port Phillip. That the efforts of the associations were not inef is proved by the fact, given in a return printed by order of the C that in 1847 the number of persons leaving Van Diemen's La the other colonies amounted to 4,787; in 1848, to 3,799; in 1 4,617; in 1850, to 4,146; and in 1851, to 6,931; or a total f years of 24,280.

Towards the close of the period, and in consequence of the de several of the leading industries, a new view began to be taken ies of the climate of New South Wales, inclusive, of course, of ern sub-tropical districts of what has since become the colony sland; and regulations were issued with the view of promoting luction of foreigners to cultivate such commodities as wine, lk, which could not be produced in the United Kingdom, and nding or manufacture of which skilled labourers could not ntly be obtained in the mother country. Such colonists, there- esired to employ their land and capital in the production of odities indicated, were offered by the Government a bounty of married man and his wife (the age of neither of whom should) years), and a bounty of £18 for each child, male or female, age of 14 years, accompanying both parents, or one of them. cognised that the definition of the foreign labourers for whom would be allowed was necessarily impossible, and any attempt efinition would have been inconsistent with the object in view— e a supply of labour requisite for the progressive development pacities of the soil as they might from time to time become As a general rule, however, the Government intended to limit ance to such labourers as were requisite for raising articles which produce of the soil, and for bringing them into their simplest le shape. In illustration of this principle, wine and silk were l, viz., that in the case of the former, bounties should be offered description of labourers necessary for the culture of the grape, nanufacture and casking of wine; and in the case of the latter, bourers required for the production and preparation of the raw but not for its manufacture. Under this regulation, bounties allowed for such persons as overseers, nor for any labourers le from the United Kingdom.

umber of each class of immigrants forwarded to the colony, ing in Sydney during the course of a year (1848), is shown in ving table:—

Class of Immigrants.	Males.	Females.
al labourers	1,782	......
	171	......
urers employed in the management of stock or culti- of the soil	79	......
ervants	41	1,542
engaged in erecting buildings or in obtaining or pre- building materials	264	......
ple engaged in preparing or selling articles of food	53	......
ple engaged in making articles of clothing	20	75
espeople, mechanics, etc.	331	15
Total	2,741	1,632

A curious fact of this period is to be found in the return to England of expired-sentence men. While the Government were vainly petitioning for immigrant labour, the expense of the introduction of which they were prepared partially to bear, acclimatised and experienced workers were leaving the colony as rapidly as they could, and paying their own passage-money to the mother country.

About the year 1849 the emigration from Australia to California, which had set in as a result of the discoveries of gold in this State, began to grow more and more noticeable. In the month of July, during three weeks, three vessels sailed, conveying from Sydney upwards of [illegible] passengers. In 1850 the desire to emigrate to California had become general, and the most stringent regulations were found to be necessary to prevent overcrowding on the outgoing vessels. During the first six months of 1851 twelve ships left Port Jackson, conveying to the new gold-fields of America 1,684 passengers, many of whom had been introduced into the colony at the expense of the Land Fund. This migration was not, however, exactly a real exodus. Numbers of genuine settlers doubtless left the country during the long period of depression, dazzled by a rising star of fortune in the east; but many who left the colony were persons who had simply made the bounty system of emigration to Australia the means of proceeding at a smaller cost to the gold-fields in western America. In 1851, when gold was discovered also in New South Wales, the tide of immigration to the colony not only set in in a steady volume, but the impulse to emigrate from Australia was arrested, and California, in the matter of population, ceased to profit at the colony's expense.

Wages varied very considerably during the period under review. Different contemporary authorities give different accounts; but the rate of wages depended, no doubt, upon the distance of a district from the seaport, and its accessibility to Sydney or Melbourne. In the Port Phillip District, for instance, wages appear to have been higher at this time than in New South Wales proper, and they varied very much even in the parent colony. In the southern districts, during the year 1843, station servants, hut-keepers, and shepherds received £18 per annum with rations; in the more central districts shepherds' wages ranged from £15 to £20 per annum, together with rations; and the wages of some classes of farm labourers, such as good ploughmen, from £20 to £25. Domestic servants received from £12 to £15, and even £20, "according to abilities." The wages of artisans were, in 1845, quoted at rates varying from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. a day; and employment moreover, even at such low remuneration, was exceedingly difficult to obtain. In 1849, while the mechanics of Sydney were suffering great distress for lack of employment in their respective trades, and were being roughly censured by the local press because they would not go into the bush and labour as hut-keepers and "rouseabouts," newly-arrived immigrants were being engaged at the following rates:—Single girl domestics, 5s. per week and rations; general farm-labourers, from

8 per year and rations; and ploughmen at from £20 to £25 per
and rations, house, water and fuel found. In some cases ex-
iced shepherds, who thoroughly knew the conditions of the climate,
he variations of pasturage, received £30 a year and rations. In
ear 1850 stockmen and shepherds received from £15 to £18 a
bullock-drivers and ploughmen, from £18 to £20; and male
tic servants from £17 to £22; in all cases, of course, inclusive
ions, lodgings, fuel, and water.

the following table, which gives the medium rate of wages for
year during the entire epoch, may be traced the emergence of the
from the depression of 1843 to the hopeful new conditions of

Trade or Calling.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
Males, per day, without board and lodging.										
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
ers	5 0	4 0	4 0	5 2	5 6	5 3	4 9	4 6	6 5	9 0
....	5 0	4 0	4 3	5 2	5 6	5 3	4 9	4 6	6 8	9 0
....	5 0	4 0	4 0	5 2	5 6	5 3	4 9	4 6	7 8	9 0
yers	5 0	4 0	4 0	5 2	5 6	5 3	4 9	4 6	6 0	9 0
rights	4 0	3 6	3 3	4 3	5 0	5 3	4 9	4 6	6 4	9 0
Males, per annum, with board and lodging.										
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
bourers	15	15	18	20	23	21	18	18	20	28
rds	14	14	17	20	23	21	18	18	20	28
Females, per annum, with board and lodging.										
....	15	15	18	20	22	21	17	17	20	22
aids	15	15	15	17	17	17	14	13	16	16
sses	12	12	15	17	19	18	15	15	16	20
aids	10	10	12	15	16	14	9	9	9	16
servants	12	12	16	16	18	16	12	14	16	17
ouse servants	10	10	12	16	17	16	12	11	13	14
omen	10	10	12	16	17	16	12	11	13	14

ions, valued at about £12 per annum, were supplied to such
yés as station servants, hut-keepers and shepherds. The weekly
, as stated by a Select Committee on Immigration, comprised 10 lb.
10 lb. flour, 2½ lb. sugar, some tobacco, and ¼ lb. tea. If wages
ow during the first portion of the period, so also were provisions,
e cost of living was very considerably reduced, bread selling at
3d. the 2-lb. loaf; meat, from 2d. to 3d. per lb.; sugar, from
3d.; and wheat, from 4s. to 6s. per bushel; while dairy produce
getables were plentiful and cheap. In 1844 beef and mutton in
were retailed at 1½d. and 2d. per lb., and other commodities

were proportionately cheap. The following are Sydney market tions for the year mentioned:—

Wheat, per bushel	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.
Maize, per bushel	1s. 0d. „ 1s. 4d.
Oats, per bushel	2s. 0d. „ 2s. 6d.
Barley, per bushel	2s. 6d. „ 2s. 0d.
Bread, per 2-lb. loaf	2d.
Butter, fresh, per lb.	0s. 10d. to 1s. 0d.
„ salt, per lb.	9d.
Flour, per ton	£8 to £8 10s.
Potatoes, per ton	£1 10s. to £2
Eggs, per dozen	6d. to 8d.
Peas, per peck	6d. „ 8d.

Pumpkins, per doz.	
Beef, per qr., per lb.	0s. 0½d. to
„ retail, per lb.	0s. 1½d. „
Veal, per lb.	0s. 3d. „
Poultry, per pair	2s. 0d. „
Rabbits, per pair	4s. 6d. „
Sheep, each	0s. 0d. „
Fat cattle, per head	£2 5s. „
Milch-cows (including calves), per head	£1 15s. „

In 1845 flour was quoted at £10 per ton, cattle at £1 per hea sheep at 5s. per head. Provisions appear to have remained cheap, throughout the period, in all parts of the colony. In Melbourne market quotations gave potatoes as selling retail at to 4s. per cwt.; most kinds of fruit and vegetables at low geese and turkeys, from 6s. to 7s. each; ducks, from 3s. 6d. to pair; fowls, from 3s. to 3s. 9d. per pair; eggs, from 1s. 6d. to per dozen; and butter from 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb. In the mo March, 1848, wheat was quoted in Sydney at 5s. per bushel; 2d. per lb., and tea at 2s. 3d. The prices of provisions in markets in 1849 were according to the following rates:—

Wheat, per bushel	4s. 0d. to 4s. 3d.
Maize, per bushel	1s. 8d.
Flour, fine, per ton	£11
„ per lb.	1½d.
Potatoes, per ton	£6
Butter, per lb.	8d. to 9½d.
Cheese, per lb	4d.
Bacon and ham, per lb.	4½d.

Geese, per pair	
Ducks, per pair	
Fowls, per pair	2
Beef, per lb.	2d
Mutton, per lb.	1½d
Veal, per lb.	
Lamb, per lb.	

The retail prices of articles in general use were as follow:—butter, 1s. per lb.; milk, 3d. per quart: tallow candles (locally- 4d. per lb.; cheese, 6d. per lb.; coffee, 1s. 1d. per lb.; tea, 2s. p moist sugar, 3d. per lb; refined sugar, 6d. per lb.; colonial t 9d. per lb.; and other articles of ordinary consumption at li prices. A sheep could be purchased at 4s. 6d. to 6s., and a cow at 20s. to 30s. In the fall of the year, however, fat cattl quoted at £5 per head, and beef and mutton were sold at the u prices of 4d. and 5d. per lb., but meat did not long remain so de December, 1849, prime beef was quoted at 6s. 4d. to 8s. per mutton was selling at 2d. per lb.; fat stock had declined to 50s. and wheat was quoted at 3s. 8d. per bushel. In 1850 beef was in Sydney at 1d. to 1½d. per lb.; tea was 1s. 6d. per lb.; sug per lb.; and wheat, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per bushel.

House rent remained comparatively high, notwithstandin building was at a standstill, that mechanics were looking wa nployment, and that house property had fallen 33 per cent. in value nsequent upon the emigration of people to California. A return ted 1849, which dealt with franchise qualifications, showed that there ere within the limits of the city of Sydney 288 houses with a rental under £5 per annum; 1,493 with a rental of £5 and under £10; 757 with a rental of from £10 to £20; and 4,204 with a rental of 20 and upwards.

About the beginning of the year 1844 some slight reaction was perienced in the trade of the colony, and the depressed state of cal interests was felt to be reviving. Contemporary writers hailed e new year as a fresh starting-point for renewed enterprise and nfidence; but, unfortunately, the condition of things was in no way rmanently improved, and the depression shortly afterwards became ore pronounced than ever. Australia, however, had no exceptional perience, and there is little doubt that the local disasters were but e back-wash of the wave of depression which rose in Europe. Throughut the whole of the eastern colonies the greatest distress was felt, and any mercantile houses whose credit had hitherto been undoubted, and ho proudly dated their establishment from the foundation of the ttlements, were laid prostrate.

Boiling-down, meat-canning, and other devices were resorted to in rder to revive the commerce of the colony from the stagnation and thargy into which it had fallen, yet notwithstanding all expedients ffairs steadily became gloomier, prices continued seriously to decline, nd speculation was practically at a standstill. It is difficult to magine to what depths the colony might have sunk had it not been r the discovery of gold in 1851, when the face of everything, as if at e word of a magician, became instantly changed, although the full nfluence of the discoveries was not felt until the following year.

The industries during this period comprised sheep and cattle-breeding, haling and sealing, coal-mining, horse-breeding, general and dairy farmng, timber-getting, and gold-mining. Boiling down sheep and cattle for heir fat was, of course, only an effort to realise something on epreciated stock—an expedient which cannot be regarded as a legitiate industry at all; while the southern whale fisheries were passing nto the hands of the Americans. From time to time small vessels ere sent to collect trepang on the northern coast, and this was subseuently exported to China, where it commanded a ready market; but t appears that the industry was not sufficiently remunerative, and it was, herefore, allowed to fall off. The production of tallow, just prior to he discovery of gold, was, to all intents and purposes, the colony's taple industry. In the fall of the year 1847 a local journal bewailed he fact that the production of a yearly output of 10,000 tons of tallow ecessitated the slaughtering of 75,000 head of cattle (sufficient to feed 0,000 people for one year, at the proportion of 10 lb. of meat per eek each), and 400,000 sheep (sufficient to feed 40,000 people).

The manufacturing progress of the colony during this period be fairly gauged by the following table, which shows the increase the number of the various industrial establishments from [illegible] 1848:—

Establishments.	[illegible]	1848.
Distilleries	3	3
Rectifying and compounding establishments	......	2
Breweries	6	21
Sugar-refining works	......	3
Soap works	3	13
Candle factories	3	
Tobacco and snuff factories	......	4
Cloth factories	6	6
Hat-making establishments	2	4
Rope-works	......	4
Tanneries	11	40
Salt-works	2	2
Salting and preserving meat works	......	5
Gas-works	......	1
Potteries	......	7
Glass-works	......	1
Smelting-works	......	1
Iron and brass foundries	......	13

The following mills were also at work:—

Steam-engine corn-mills	4	65
Windmills	16	26
Water-mills	10	43
Horse mills	8	38

The colony's principal exports at the beginning of the period wool, tallow, oil, skins, coal, bark, and salt beef; and, at the close of the period, gold was added.

FIFTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1852–1858.

The fifth period of the colony's industrial history extends the year 1852 to 1858, and is properly the period of gold- throughout the eastern Australian colonies, and even in New It begins shortly after the separation from the mother colony of Port Phillip District, and its formation into a separate province the name of Victoria, and closes just prior to a subsequent ment, in which originated the northern colony of Queensland.

e epoch may be summarised as one of rapid growth and great ge, ushered in with the rush for gold, and ending with the subsie of the intense excitement and the stoppage of immigration. The half of the period is associated with the concluding years of Sir les Augustus Fitzroy's term of office; the second half with a portion r William Denison's administration. The epoch is chiefly interesting ically on account of the initiation of responsible government, the elected Parliament of New South Wales assembling on the 22nd , 1856; and commercially, because of the construction of the first oad in the colony, and the establishment of steam communica- with Great Britain—the Chusan, the first steamer from England, ring in Sydney on 31st August, 1852.

he discovery of gold not only put an end to the depression of the ious period, but it prepared the colony, by the creation of fictitious es, for another depression, and effected a revolution in all industrial tions. According to contemporary evidence, the supply of labour in y occupations speedily became exhausted, and there were more ons desirous of hiring labourers than there were labourers to be d. The diggings drained not only Melbourne and Sydney, but laide, Hobart, and every other Australian centre. Most branches ndustry and all public works were at a standstill. In 1852 it was mated that no fewer than from 8,000 to 10,000 men were engaged old-mining in New South Wales alone. In 1856, when the output fallen considerably, the number of gold-miners, according to the res given in the Census returns collected during that year, was 4,451. Christopher Rolleston, then Registrar-General, insisted, however, these figures indicated only those residing on the gold-fields on the March, 1856, who were then actually engaged in digging for the ious metal, and who comprised probably not more than one-third of number that at different seasons of the year were in the habit of ing their usual callings to try their luck at digging for gold. As ring upon the same question, it is interesting to note that the ber of persons who found employment in pastoral pursuits fell from 19 in 1851 to 12,387 in 1856, notwithstanding an increase of over illion in sheep, and of half that number in cattle. The decrease in number of hands was not due to improvements effected in the agement of station properties, but to the desertion of shepherds and ons tending cattle, who left the uneventful life of the pastoralist to in the search for gold, principally in the neighbouring colony of toria, which province had absorbed over 30,000 persons, chiefly bodied adults, who had crossed the river Murray to the gold-fields he south, and had never returned.

he gold fever brought to Australia not only young, stalwart, rprising men of great endurance, and capable of adapting themselves lmost any conditions of life, but also multitudes of others whose f idea was that wealth could be acquired almost without exertion. ble to endure the hardships of a digger's lot, without trade or profession, and capable of only the lightest manual labour, they mo drifted back to Sydney, where a large number of unemployed h gathered together in 1858, when the rush to the Port Curtis g field broke out. Joining the unemployed from the mines of Vict and New South Wales, they rushed in thousands to the new field, less than 4,000 leaving Sydney in the space of a month, while 6,0 went from other parts of Australia. A few weeks sufficed to sh that the Port Curtis gold-field could not maintain so many, and in th latter part of the year the majority left for Sydney, where they roam the streets disappointed and unemployed, until drawn away by attraction of other rushes.

During this period, in consequence of the impossibility of ind immigrants to come to the colony from the United Kingdom labourers and mechanics, and in view of the great dearth of labour all the ordinary occupations of life, the importation of a useful class foreigners, particularly Germans, was strongly urged in the public prin and it was asserted that any number of men from Germany could b persuaded to emigrate from their native land under engagement t refund all the expenses of their passage out. Many, in fact, were imported, under two years' indentures, at £20 per year, binding themselves to refund £18, the cost of the passage, out of their total earnings. However, systematic emigration to New South Wales from a European country other than the United Kingdom was never carried into eff on any comprehensive scale. It is interesting to note that, in order t facilitate the construction of a railway, the Government consented, i the year 1852, to allow 500 railroad labourers to be brought out at the expense of the immigration fund.

The rates of remuneration for ordinary labour were on the increase in each of the colonies, and many branches of industry were coming to a standstill for lack of men to carry them on. In Adelaide, for instance, wages were not only daily advancing, but settlers were glad to hire the aborigines of the colony to gather in their crops. In the sister colony of Victoria, carpenters, wheelwrights, and bricklayers received, in 1853, 15s. per day, with board and lodging; carpenters, in town, without board and lodging, 28s. per day, and in the country 22s. 6d.; masons, in town, without board and lodging, 26s. 9d. per day, and in the country 25s.; bricklayers, in town and in country, without board and lodging, 25s. per day; and smiths and wheelwrights, in town and in country, without board and lodging, 22s. 6d. per day. In 1854 the rates of wages ruling were quoted as follow:—Smiths in country, 20s. per day; masons, in country, 22s. 6d.; wheelwrights in country, 24s., and in town, 30s.; carpenters in country, 23s., and in town, 25s; and bricklayers in country, 25s., and in town 30s., without board and lodging in each case. But in Victoria wages were much higher than in the parent colony, in consequence of the continuance of the mining boom and the absorption of nearly all enterprise and all available labour in the one direct of gold-getting.

following table shows the ruling rates of wages in New South during the period, taking only the most prominent trades. To te the vast change which a few years made, the rates for 1851 o given :—

le or Calling.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
Males, per day, without board and lodging.								
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. s.	s. s.	s. s.	s. s.	s. s.
ers	6 0	9 0	15 6	25 to 30	18 to 25	16 to 18	12 to 16	10/6 to 11 6
iths	6 8	9 0	12 9	20 to 25	14 to 16	8 to 13	10 to 14	10 6
ers.	6 5	9 0	12 6	15 to 20	12 to 15	12 to 15	10 to 12	10 to 11
	....	....	....	15 to 20	10 to 12	12 to 14	12 to 14	......
nakers	....	....	....	15 to 20	12 to 15	12 to 15	12 to 14	......
	....	....	....	12 to 15	10 to 12	9 to 12	10 to 12	......
s and glaziers	....	....	....	16 to 20	12 to 15	12 to 15	12 to 15	.....
	....	....	....	17 to 20	12 to 15	12 to 14	12 to 15	......
ders	....	....	....	16 to 20	14 to 16	12 to 14	11 to 13	......
ths	....	....	....	18 to 22	16 to 18	12 to 15	10 to 13	......
en	....	....	....	18 to 21	16 to 18	12.6 to 15	14 to 16	......
kers	....	....	....	....	14 to 22	12 to 14	10 to 12	......
rights	6 4	9 0	15 0	18 to 20	14 to 16	12 to 14	12 to 14	10 to 11
rs	....	....	16 0	25 to 30	14 to 16	13 to 17	13 to 15	......
	....	....	....	13 to 16 8	13 to 14	10 to 12	8 to 12	......
sons	7 8	9 0	16 0	25 to 30	....	12 6 to 15	13 to 15	10.6 to 11
Females, per annum, with board and lodging.								
	£ £	£ £	£	£	£	£	£	£
	16 to 25	18 to 25	24	28	28	25	28	26
aids	14 to 18	14 to 18	17	22	22	21	17	23
ses	7 to 12	15 to 18	20	28	28	24	23	26
aids	9 to 15	16 to 18	17	18	18	18	18	19
servants	14 to 18	16 to 18	18	28	23	22	23	25
ouse servants	13	14	15	25	22	20	19	25
omen	13	14	15	25	22	20	19	25

e prices of all sorts of provisions and of all articles of clothing were, g this golden era, largely increased ; indeed, there was hardly a odity in the market, whether an article of use or of luxury, the of which might not be described as "fancy." In 1853 bread t 3½d. to 4d. per lb., but certain lines of provisions were fairly nable ; for instance, tea was quoted at 1s. 4d. per lb., sugar at 3½d., meat at 3d., butter at 1s. 3d., potatoes at 6s. per cwt., brandy at er gallon, and imported beer at 5s. per gallon ; flour, however, was d at 3d. per lb., the price per ton ranging between £20 and £27. use-rent rose, of course, with the influx of population, the number rsons requiring residential accommodation being so much in excess bitable dwellings that the Census of 1856 enumerates no fewer 709 houses as being in occupation although still in the hands of uilder. As illustrative of the exigencies of the time in this par- r, it is interesting to note that of 39,807 dwellings, 1,709 were 31 were drays, and 64 were ships used as residences. Of the number of habitations in the colony, 23,790 were built of wood, f such inferior materials as bark, slabs, wattle and dab, and the and 225 of iron ; while more than 32 per cent. of the dwellings roofed with bark or thatch.

The eight or nine years characterised by the rage of the g fever exercised a very great economic effect on the condition of t working classes, for had there been no discovery of gold it is improbable that, with respect to both the standard of living and t remuneration of labour, the conditions existing prior to 1850 wou have long remained without any great change for the better. In th days the standard of labour in England was the practical test of t condition of the working classes in Australia, who were thought w off simply because their earnings enabled them to enjoy comfo beyond the reach of their fellows in the Old World. Since the g era this has been changed, and the standard now made for themselves Australian workers has no reference to that of any other country. T attractions of the gold-fields had also a marked subsequent effect up industries of an absolutely different character. Many men, of a sorts of trades and professions, who were drawn to these shores by the prospect of acquiring enough of the precious metal to ensure their independence, remained in the country, and pursued less exciting and les precarious callings, while gold-miners themselves in many cases ceas the exploitation of the mineral which was to have made them rich, and turned their attention to the winning of silver, copper, tin, coal, and other minerals.

Another effect of the gold rush must not be lost sight of. Although New South Wales had ceased to be a place open to the reception of British convicts, yet the colony was permeated with social and economic ideas begotten of the transportation era. The men who had been convicts, or who were born of convict parents, were a considerable element in the population, while the employers had, for the most part, at one period or other of their career, been masters of bond labour. A few years changed all this. It was as if Australia had been newly discovered; certainly the country was recolonised, and the bond population and their descendants became a small minority of the population which every year made more insignificant, until at the present day it is only in out of the way corners that there is anything to remind the observer that New South Wales was at one time a penal settlement.

During the whole of this period considerable activity was shown in testing the navigable waters of the colony, and repeated efforts were made to open up communication by way of the rivers Murray and Darling, which, of course, had a corresponding influence on the great pastoral industry of the colony by affording means of cheap transit for the leading staple of the interior. In 1853, W. R. Randall, in his small steamer, the Mary Anne, was the first to proceed up the Murray, and eventually he reached Maiden's Punt, as the crossing from Echuca to Moama was then named. In the same year Captain Cadell proceeded in a steamer up the Murray to near Albury "with the greatest ca and success." This voyage attracted marked attention, and was th cause of the inauguration of regular steam-service on the rive

ins Cadell, Johnson, and Robertson, and Mr. Randall, subse-
ly followed up the original essays in the direction of inland river
ation by steaming up the courses of the Murrumbidgee, the
ng, the Barwon, and the Edwards, thus making accessible to popu-
, and opening up to the wool-growing industry, an enormous
se of territory. In the north, A. C. Gregory (in search of Leich-
), Dalrymple, and other explorers, were successively unlocking
e squatters, who followed closely in their wake, the broad areas
sturage, whose almost immediate occupation advanced the northern
ries of squatting localities, known as the Moreton Bay District, in
strides to the dignity of the colony of Queensland. It is note-
y, and distinctly characteristic of the period, that by the year 1854
urchase of land for agricultural purposes had almost ceased, terri-
eing taken up instead in large tracts by pastoral lessees for grazing
ses.

e development of the pastoral industry made further and further
tions inland a matter of necessity. In the first years of Australian
y the coastal belt only was available, but with the crossing of the
Mountains, in 1813, a new horizon stretched before the pastoral
nation, and with each successive discovery by Oxley or Cunningham
itchell or Hume plain was added to plain of pasture, and the paths
e explorers were dotted with chains of squattages. In the earliest
of pastoral settlement it was customary for stock-breeders to drive
herds to the nearest unoccupied good country when they increased
d the grazing capabilities of their pasturages. In this manner the
courses in the western districts became stocked, and the country
ring them occupied. The practice came into vogue when cattle
decreasing in value, and when, therefore, it was absolutely neces-
o breed them at the least expense. These herds were, however,
or in strain: they frequently became wild and unmanageable, and
s only with the influx of population during the gold fever days,
high prices were paid for meat, that they acquired any value.
attle, nevertheless, showed that the interior country was good for
grazing, and proved that land which had hitherto been regarded as
rt was very fattening pasture—for they had discovered "salt-bush,"
ler plant which retains its vitality when other kinds of herbage have
withered away. The grazing value of the river country, or
ina, has never since been challenged.

re were three great waves of settlement which swept over
alia. The first, to which allusion has already been made, flowed
the inland plains between the colonies of New South Wales,
ria, and South Australia. The second rolled further inland, and
d the occupied country, as far as the central basin of the conti-
The third went northward to the downs of Queensland. The
nigration of stock arose from the demands for meat made by the
liggers. The success of this pioneer movement inspired the second
ment, which was prompted by the demand for wool. The third

essay in pastoral settlement was occasioned by the maintained and creasing value of all squatting property. The growth of the past industry has already been adverted to, and also the influence that gold discoveries had upon it—on the one hand retarding its devel ment by depriving it of labour, and on the other hand, encouragin by the creation of a demand for carcase meat. In 1851 the numbe sheep in the colony was estimated at about 7,000,000, and in 18 just after the subsidence of the wild days of speculative excitem 6,000,000; hence the dearth and costliness of labour, together with t demand for meat, appear to have been responsible for the decrease the flocks to the extent of 1,000,000 head during the decade. T subjoined statement shows the number of sheep in the colony at ea year of the period, together with the value of the exports of wool a of tallow and lard:—

Year.	Sheep.	Exports of—	
		Wool.	Tallow and Lard.
	No.	£	£
1852	7,707,917	676,815	146,811
1853	7,929,708	999,896	134,708
1854	8,144,119	1,181,956	164,256
1855	8,602,499	1,075,017	123,255
1856	7,736,323	1,303,070	137,202
1857	8,139,162	1,275,067	82,134
1858	7,581,762	1,126,486	53,186

Horses and horned cattle, on the contrary, increased, although the was a falling off in the latter in 1858. The number of pigs in t colony gradually decreased to the year 1854; in 1855 they add nearly 5,000 to their number; in 1856, nearly 38,000; and in 185 over 3,000; but they declined in 1858 by over 16,000. The followi are the stock returns for the period:—

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.
1852	123,404	1,495,984	78,559
1853	139,765	1,552,285	71,395
1854	148,851	1,576,750	63,255
1855	158,159	1,858,407	68,091
1856	168,929	2,023,418	105,998
1857	180,053	2,148,664	109,166
1858	200,713	2,110,604	92,843

Agriculture was greatly neglected during the days of the gold ever, and the sales of land realised far from what might have been xpected from the increasing influx of population. In 1840 there were 26,116 acres under cultivation, and the land revenue for the year was £316,626. In 1854, fourteen years afterwards, the number of acres under crop was 131,857, and the revenue from land sales, £319,533. The following statement shows the area under cultivation for each year of the period, together with the revenue derived from the sale of the colony's Crown lands:—

Year.	Area under cultivation.	Revenue from land sales.
	acres.	£
1852	131,730	55,808
1853	139,014	211,035
1854	131,857	319,533
1855	171,100	270,636
1856	186,034	245,555
1857	184,514	210,333
1858	223,296	240,633

In 1846 there were 183,360 acres under cultivation; in 1843 there had been 146,165 acres. A comparison between these years and the years quoted in the foregoing table will show how the agricultural interest had been brought almost to a standstill during the period of the exploitation of the gold-fields. But the excitement caused by the pursuit of the precious metal not only had its temporary effect upon the pastoral and agricultural development of the colony; it retarded also the growth of its manufacturing industries, though it doubtless attracted hither the population to whom these industries owed their subsequent revival, and who supplied labour to operate them. In the following table the mills and factories, together with the population of the colony, are given for each year of the period, with a similar series of facts for the preceding seven years:--

Year.	Population.	Mills and manufacturing establishments.	Year.	Population.	Mills and manufacturing establishments.
1845	181,556	266	1852	208,254	286
1846	196,704	262	1853	231,088	284
1847	205,009	266	1854	251,315	286
1848	220,474	305	1855	277,579	371
1849	246,299	354	1856	286,873	432
1850	265,503	388	1857	305,487	418
1851	*197,168	291	1858	342,062	464

* Decrease owing to severance of Port Phillip District.

With steam communication with other parts of the world, and introduction into Australia of the railway system, new markets w being created for the trade in coal, although it was not before subsidence of the gold fever that they began to be availed of. quantity of coal raised in 1852 was 67,404 tons, and in 1858 over times as much, viz., 216,397 tons. In 1850 and 1851 the price of ranged from 9s. to 10s. per ton; in 1852 it had risen to over 80s. per although it did not remain for an extended period at this high The quantity and value of the production of this mineral during period under review were as follow:—

Year.	Quantity raised.	Average price per ton.	Approximate total value.
	tons.	s. d.	£
1852	67,404	10 11	36,885
1853	96,809	16 2	78,059
1854	116,642	20 6	119,380
1855	137,076	13 0	89,082
1856	189,960	12 5	117,906
1857	210,434	14 1	148,158
1858	216,397	15 0	162,162

Up to the year 1852 the commerce of New South Wales, as sho in the figures representing the imports, was erratic in an exce degree, but with the year in question came a marked expansion in colony's trade, and the volume of imports increased in a single ye from about two to more than six and a quarter millions, although returns for the next three years would appear to indicate that imports of 1853 were due rather to speculative enterprise than to necessities of commerce. In the following table are given the impo and exports of New South Wales from 1851 to 1858, the former ye being included for purpose of comparison:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1851	1,563,931	1,796,912
1852	1,900,436	4,604,034
1853	6,342,397	4,523,346
1854	5,981,063	4,050,126
1855	4,668,519	2,884,130
1856	5,460,971	3,430,880
1857	6,729,408	4,011,952
1858	6,059,366	4,186,277

The imports comprised mainly manufactured goods and articl luxury, while the exports consisted almost exclusively of raw mat

old. The product of the southern fisheries had greatly fallen off
e beginning of the period, and the export of oil, etc., averaged
ve years between £25,000 and £30,000 per annum. In 1858 the
ts of the fisheries had fallen to £1,450 ; in 1859 to £532 ; and in
to £136. With the last-named year, the industry, around which
rs so many historical associations, and which is so peculiarly
iscent of the early days of Australian settlement, practically
pears, although a few trifling essays have, from time to time, been
to revive it in southern waters, and small quantities of oil have
exported from Sydney.

e table last given demonstrates that from the year 1852 to 1858
xcess of imports over exports was no less than £9,451,415, which
s that British capital was being attracted to the colony, though
thing like the extent to which it was being showered upon the sister-
y of Victoria. The growth of the exports after 1851 was due, of
e, to the quantity of gold sent away during the first years of the
ngs, though the industry rapidly declined, not, however, from the
ustion of the fields, but from the fact that the rapid discoveries of
recious metal made in Victoria afforded a more immediate induce-
to exploitation. The subjoined table shows the value of the gold
rted from the two colonies up to 1858 :—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.
	£	£
1851	468,336	438,777
1852	2,660,946	8,760,579
1853	1,781,172	11,090,643
1854	773,209	9,214,093
1855	654,594	11,070,270
1856	689,174	11,943,458
1857	674,477	10,987,591
1858	1,104,175	10,107,836

e foregoing table explains the tremendous attraction which the
ern colony possessed for the population of the Australasian group.
idering also that the imports into Victoria during 1854 were
ss than £17,659,051, it is apparent that for a period the parent
y was quite eclipsed by the growth of its own off-shoot, and that
ommerce of the South Pacific gravitated to Melbourne. During a
month as many as 152 ships arrived in Port Phillip, conveying
r 12,000 immigrants. The parent colony experienced a diminu-
of population owing to the attractions of Victoria, but the drain
nly temporary, as the population of New South Wales increased
208,254 in 1852 to 342,062 in 1858, showing, for the entire epoch,
of 133,808, or a rate of increase of upwards of 64 per cent. for a
of six years.

It was not until 1846 that the people of Sydney began to awaken t the advantages of railroad communication, and moot the desirability o connecting the metropolis with the inland city of Goulburn ; and n until two years afterwards that a company was formed for the purp of constructing a line to Parramatta and Liverpool, with subsequ possible extensions. In 1850 the first sod of the first railway constructed in Australia was turned. In 1853 a second company wa formed, with the object of constructing a railway from Newcastle t Maitland ; but both companies came to grief, and the Government w obliged to take the projects over. On the 26th September, 1855, line from Sydney to Parramatta was declared open to public t and thus was inaugurated the railway system, which has had in m recent times so great an influence upon the commercial development o the colony. For many years, however, railway construction languished, the enthusiasm of its advocates being doubtless considerably damp by the reflection that the short line from Sydney to Parramatta, onl 14 miles in length, cost about £700,000—or £50,000 a mile—six tim as much as the original promoters estimated would be required t build the line all the way from Sydney to Goulburn, a distance o 134 miles.

Reference has already been made to the opening up of steam communication with England in 1852, during which year the Chusan, th Australia, and the Great Britain—the last-named the largest sh afloat at that time—visited Port Jackson. In 1856 a steam servic of anything but a satisfactory character, was carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company and the Royal Mail Company ; but the days of efficient ocean communication were still to come. These early essays, however, had no small effect in stimulating the colonists to agitate for something better, and proposals were made for the establishment of a line of mail-packets *via* Panama, but they did not bear fruit until the year 1866.

SIXTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1859–1862.

The years extending from 1859 to 1862 may be regarded as forming the sixth period in the colony's industrial history. During the whole of this time the country was undergoing the process of recovery from days of excitement and dreams of chance, when the wealthy speculator of one moment became the beggared adventurer of the next, and the outcast of many years the millionaire of as many months. The community appeared to be vaguely restless, as though beginning to reali that the golden era of their experience was rapidly drifting into a p saic period of sterner conditions, and slower and more arduous grow

Wages, as recorded for the period, may be regarded as [illegible] nominal, as employment was difficult to obtain, and speculation nt. The following are given as the rates in the prominent trades llings :—

Trade or Calling.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Males, per day, without board and lodging.				
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
ters	9 6	10 6	10 0	10 0
niths	9 6	10 6	10 0	10 0
rights	9 6	10 0	10 6	10 6
yers	10 6	10 6	11 0	13 0
	9 9	11 6	11 9	10 0
Males, per annum, with board and lodging.				
	£	£	£	£
abourers	30 to 40	30 to 40	30 to 40	30 to 40
rds	30 to 35	30 to 35	30 to 35	35
Females, per annum, with board and lodging.				
	25 to 30	25 to 30	25 to 30	26 to 40
naids	16 to 18	16 to 25	20 to 25	20 to 26
resses	20 to 25	25 to 30	25 to 30	30 to 40
naids	15 to 18	15 to 20	15 to 20	15 to 25
l House Servants	20 to 25	18 to 25	20 to 25	25
Servants and Dairy-en	15 to 20	18 to 25	20 to 25	22

average prices of some of the principal articles of consumption e years 1860, 1861, and 1862, are quoted as follow :—

Article of Consumption.	1860.	1861.	1862.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat, per bushel	8 0	6 6	7 0
Bread, 1st quality, per lb.	0 3½	0 4	0 2½
Flour, ,, per lb.	0 3½	0 3	0 3
Rice, per lb.	0 5	0 4	2d. to 4d.
Oatmeal, per lb	0 6	0 6	0 5
Tea, per lb.	2 3	2 4	1·6 to 2/
Coffee, per lb.	1 6	1 6	1/4 to 1/6
Meat, fresh, per lb.	0 4	0 3	0 4
Butter, fresh, per lb.	1 6	1 8	2 5
Cheese, English, per lb.	1 6	1 7	1 6
Potatoes, per cwt.	7 6	7 3	8 0

the close of the preceding industrial period there were in the 7,581,762 sheep; but in 1859 the number had declined to

5,162,671, a decrease due mainly to the severance of Queensla
the mother colony. In the following statement are given the
of sheep and other stock in New South Wales during each year
period, together with the value of wool and of tallow and lard ex
at the time :—

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Export of Wool.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£
1859	214,684	2,190,976	119,701	5,162,671	[illegible]
1860	251,497	2,408,586	180,662	6,119,163	1,454,289
1861	233,220	2,271,923	146,091	5,615,054	1,768,978
1862	273,389	2,620,383	125,541	6,145,651	1,801,186

Renewed attention was bestowed upon agriculture, which ha
remained neglected. The area of land devoted to crops, whic
247,542 acres in 1859, had in 1862 increased to 302,138 acres.

The manufacturing industry also made progress, and while i
the factories and works in the colony numbered 567, in 18
number was 601, and in the following year 645.

During the period gold-mining was actively prosecuted, and th
for the year 1862 was better than that of any year since 1852.
was gradually growing into a staple commodity, and in 1862 th
of the export reached nearly a quarter of a million of money.
following statement shows the value of gold and of coal pr
during each year of the period :—

Year.	Production of Gold.	Production of Coal.
	£	£
1859	1,259,127	204,371
1860	1,465,373	226,493
1861	1,806,171	218,820
1862	2,467,780	305,234

The epoch closed, for the majority of the community, with a
measure of hopefulness, induced by the introduction of a Parliam
enactment under the provisions of which land was obtainable b
selection before survey. Sir John Robertson's Land Act—the
referred to—came into operation in 1861, and the new princ
initiated had lasting, if not immediately apparent, effect on th
dition of the working classes, giving them opportunities for empl
not previously open to them. The main principle of the
which did so much to assist recovery from the dead level of

prevailed at the time, is embodied in the following clause :—"Any n may, upon any Land Office day, tender to the Land Agent for istrict a written application for the conditional purchase of any lands, not less than 40 acres nor more than 320 acres, at the price s. per acre, and may pay to such Land Agent a deposit of 25 per im of the purchase-money thereof. And, if no other application deposit for the same land be tendered at the same time, such n shall be declared the conditional purchaser thereof at the price said."

e free selector of any portion of Crown lands had three years' t for the payment of the remainder of his purchase-money. Should fter that time, be unable or disinclined to make payment, liberty granted him to defer instalments for an indefinite period on paying r cent. interest per annum on the principal amount remaining id. It was also provided that the purchaser of any area of land 40 to 320 acres should be entitled to three times the extent of urchase for grazing ground, so long as it should not be claimed by other free selector. Certain conditions were imposed regarding ence, which came to be more honoured in the breach than in the vance.

SEVENTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1863–1872.

e seventh period in the industrial history of the colony, extending the year 1863 to that of 1872, was one when the El Dorado ns of the fifties had faded from men's minds, and when the social industrial system now existing was evolved. Few incidents calling pecial comment marked the history of this epoch, during which nost important variations in the conditions of labour arose from rse seasons, vast areas of the colony having been visited by nate droughts and floods. The distress and acute suffering which ted from these truly remarkable vicissitudes of climate were very , and the destruction of property was in many instances accompanied ss of life. The colony was not inexperienced either in the matter ods or of droughts, but the record of such disasters during this d was exceptional.

e year 1862 had been ushered in with a drought, but in February March heavy rains fell in the west, the south, and the south-west. ls ensued in those districts, but a long period of dry weather diately followed. In the month of September the drought was so e that the crops began to perish, and the farmers were compelled t young green yields in order to supply fodder to the cattle. Bush raged in many districts. In February, 1863, the drought broke nd in consequence of heavy rains the Hawkesbury rose 27 feet e its average height, and floods everywhere prevailed from Rockton in the north to Gippsland in the south. To the floods again succeeded dry weather, which marked the closing months of the y The year 1864 opened no more auspiciously. The summer proved p ticularly dry; farmers petitioned Government to be released fr claims for seed-wheat advanced during the previous year; crops many parts of the interior were totally destroyed by rust and droug and in the north by continued rain—for floods were again submerg many districts of the colony—and efforts were being made in t metropolis to provide accommodation for the houseless poor. T floods, which covered a period of six months, extending from Febru to July, caused rivers to overflow their banks, swept bridges away, destroyed a vast amount of property. The year 1865 was normal regards the seasons, but unsettled conditions again prevailed in 18 In this year the floods were attended by loss of life as well as destruction of property; lines of railway were closed in conseque of the heavy rains, and public works in some districts were grea damaged. The distress of the settlers who had been "washed o called so loudly for relief that public meetings were held for the purp of raising subscriptions; the Colonial Secretary and others hastened the inundated districts with succour, and the butchers and bak of Sydney sent meat and bread to those who had been rend destitute. Dry weather supervened from October, 1867, to Janu 1868, followed by heavy rains which inundated the valleys of t Hawkesbury and the Hunter. The year 1869 began with a se drought, and the 13th February was proclaimed by the Governme day of humiliation and prayer for rain. The pastoral industry severely affected, and the whole country suffered. In 1870 prevailed throughout the colony; traffic was stopped, and m property destroyed. A flood relief committee was formed, and, withstanding the presence of many unemployed in Sydney, efforts were made to send succour to the "washed out" settlers. T month of November in this year was specially fraught with disaster floods. The calendar was simply a record of inundations which general throughout the colony. About the beginning of the sec quarter of the following year, damaging rains again visited the Floods were reported from Penrith and Windsor, and in April and the Hunter and most of the other coastal rivers overflowed their ba The year 1872 was one of less tense physical conditions.

The alternations of inundation and drought, which marked this pe perhaps more than any other in the history of the colony, had a baneful effect upon industry. Money was very dear; the finances the colony were in anything but a satisfactory condition, and Treas after Treasurer made ineffectual attempts to make both ends meet. bad seasons, also, had their effect in aggravating the general feeling depression by discouraging the flow of capital to the soil. During keen distress in 1866 the unemployed in Sydney were sorely pressed, to afford relief a number were sent to Haslem's Creek to clear an ar land for the purposes of a cemetery. At the close of the year, just

rt of a Select Committee on the condition of the unemployed
published, a rush broke out in the Weddin Mountains, and
rily drew a great number of the workless away from the city.
the end of the period great depression was experienced in
ial circles: little enterprise was manifested in the building
nd property changed hands at a depreciation in value of about
ent. on the original cost.

arly years of this period were characterised by a large influx of
to such a great extent that at one time they formed nearly
nt. of the total population, and their presence in New South
as for long an important factor in democratic and industrial
n. With the development of the colony, and the increasing
of the finds of the precious metal, these aliens poured into the
in ever-increasing volume. In 1856 they numbered only 1,806;
rs thereafter they had risen in number to 12,988, or 3·7 per
the population. In 1861 matters with regard to Chinese
tion reached a crisis. The gold-field opened up at Burrangong
xtraordinarily rich; a great rush set in to that place, and large
f Chinese flocked to the diggings there. The miners received
ux of Asiatic fossickers with very bad grace, and convened a
eeting for the purpose of deciding whether "Burrangong was
ean or a Chinese territory." They likewise addressed a petition
ssembly complaining of the swamping of the field by thousands
se. This agitation against the alien miners resulted in continuous
: the unfortunate foreigners were ejected from their claims,
nts were burned, and they were generally ill-used. The Govern-
etermined to uphold order at any cost, despatched to the scene
iots, a place called Lambing Flat, a mixed force of artillerymen,
o 12-lb. field-pieces, some men of the 12th Regiment, and some
s of the mounted police force. The Premier, Mr. Charles
also visited the field and addressed a monster meeting of the
sympathising with their grievances, but informing them that no
could be obtained until riot and confusion had entirely ceased.
the Premier had returned to Sydney the excitement rapidly
a new rush to a locality named Tipperary Gully lured away
iners from the scene of their former disputes, and the Chinese
l to other fields. Thus ended the first labour conflict between
opeans and the Chinese, who from that date onward to the
ion Act of 1888 became a growing menace to the character of
ement of the Australian colonies.

was a marked decline in the rates of wages during the period,
arly so with regard to those paid to mechanics. In 1864
rage daily wages of carpenters ranged from 8s. to 9s. in
ithout board and lodging; of smiths, wheelwrights, and
ers, from 9s. to 10s.; and of masons, 10s. In the country,
lusive of board and lodging, the wages of carpenters, smiths,
eelwrights were quoted at £50 to £80 per annum, and of

bricklayers and masons from £80 to £100; farm labourers, from £26 to £30; shepherds, from £30 to £35; female cooks and laundresses, from £26 to £30; housemaids, from £20 to £26; nursemaids, from £15 to £26; general house servants, from £20 to £30; and farm-house servants and dairy-women from £18 to £26. In 1865 female cooks received up to £36 per annum, with board and lodging; and general house servants, from £20 to £26. This showed a decline on the rates of wages ruling in 1863, when mechanics received from 9s. to 10s. per day, and from £65 to £100 per annum; and farm labourers and shepherds from £30 to £35. The wages of female servants were not, however, very considerably affected. In 1871, workmen in the metropolis convened meetings to protest against the reduction of wages; nevertheless, there were numbers who could not obtain employment. The wages of carpenters, smiths, and wheelwrights were then quoted as ranging from 8s. to 9s. per day, and from £50 to £70 per annum; of bricklayers, from 8s. to 10s. per day, and from £60 to £80 per annum; and of masons, from 8s. to 9s. per day, and from £60 to £80 per annum. The wages of farm-labourers were quoted as ranging from £26 to £30; shepherds, from £26 to £35; female cooks, at £30; housemaids, from £20 to £26; laundresses, from £26 to £30; nursemaids, from £13 to £25; and general house servants and dairy-women from £20 to £26. The average wages per day or per week, for each year during the period, were as follow:—

Trade or Calling.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
Males, per day, without board and lodging.									
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Carpenters	9 0	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 6	8 0	8 6	[illegible]
Blacksmiths	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	10 0	[illegible]
Wheelwrights	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	8 6	8 3	[illegible]
Bricklayers	10 0	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	9 6	8 6	10 6	[illegible]
Masons	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	8 6	9 6	[illegible]
Males, per week, with board and lodging.									
Farm labourers	13 0	11 6	11 6	11 6	11 6	11 6	12 3	12 9	[illegible]
Shepherds	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 3	12 9	[illegible]
Females, per week, with board and lodging.									
Cooks	11 0	11 0	12 0	10 0	11 0	11 0	11 3	10 9	[illegible]
Housemaids	9 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	[illegible]
Laundresses	11 0	11 0	9 0	10 0	10 0	12 0	10 9	10 9	[illegible]
Nursemaids	8 0	8 0	8 0	7 0	7 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	[illegible]
General servants	10 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	11 0	10 0	10 9	[illegible]
Farm-house servants and dairy-women	8 6	8 6	8 6	9 0	9 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	[illegible]

In considering the table just given regard must be paid to the fact that although there was a considerable decline in the daily wage received by skilled mechanics, the prices of commodities in general use also steadily

The following table gives quotations for some of the principal cles of consumption for a portion of the period :—

Article of consumption.	1863.		1864.		1865.		1866.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat, per bushel	6	6	12	0	8	0	6	6
Bread, 1st quality, per lb.	0	2½	0	3	0	4	0	4
Flour, ,, per lb.	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	3
Rice, per lb.	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	4
Oatmeal, per lb.	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
Tea, per lb.	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	6
Coffee, per lb.	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4
Meat, fresh, per lb.	0	4½	0	4	0	3	0	3
Butter, fresh, per lb.	1	6	1	6	1	9	1	3
Cheese, English, per lb.	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
Potatoes, per cwt.	7	0	5	0	8	0	6	0

The stoppage of immigration reduced the demand for residential ommodation, and rents came down to about half the rates ruling ten rs before. Capitalists preferred to place their money on deposit in banks, where they obtained high rates of interest, to investing it in lding properties.

In March, 1863, an Intercolonial Conference was held in Melbourne, which the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, l Tasmania were represented. The questions discussed related to the iff and kindred matters ; intercolonial customs duties, and their dis- ution ; transportation from the United Kingdom to the Australian sessions ; a permanent immigration fund, to be provided under Act of liament by each colony, upon an equitable basis ; improvement of rnal rivers in Australia for purposes of navigation and irrigation ; st lighthouses, and other maritime questions affecting the shipping rest ; fortnightly ocean postal communication ; Anglo-Australian and na telegraph ; legal questions, including the law of bankruptcy, of ents, of joint stock companies, of probates and letters of administra- , and a court of appeal for the Australian colonies ; and a uniform tem of weights and measures. These questions subsequently engaged attention of the various Australian Parliaments, and resulted in carrying into effect of much useful and needed legislation.

At the beginning of the period a Select Committee was appointed to uire into and report upon the state of the manufacturing and agri- ural industries. On the 12th December, 1862, this Committee ught up a report which stated that from the evidence taken it was wn that manufactures had not increased during twenty years ; that ny which had flourished in the past were not in existence ; and that consequence thousands of youths were wandering about the streets a state of vagrancy, instead of learning some useful trade. This statement is, however, too sweeping to be accepted literally, and is not supported by any evidence of value.

In the early part of the period the banks required as much money as they could obtain, and were competing for it in the local market, giving for twelve months' deposits 6 and 6½ per cent. interest. Besides the banks, private companies were asking for money, for which they offered 7 per cent.; while there was a large amount of New Zealand Government debentures bearing 8 per cent. interest thrown on the market.

Trouble was experienced with the flocks and herds in 1862 and in the following year. Sheep were infected with catarrh and scab; pleuro-pneumonia was reported to have attacked the cattle, and pleurisy made its appearance among the horses.

Governor Young's term of office, which extended from 1861 to 1867, was marked by a certain amount of agitation in regard to railway matters, but railway construction proceeded slowly, the total mileage open for traffic in 1866 being only 143. Several lines were, however, in course of construction, and at the end of 1871 the mileage had increased to 358. In that year the lines open in Victoria measured 329 miles, and in all Australia, 1,082 miles.

This was the great bushranging epoch in the colony's history, which memorises such unworthy names as those of Frank Gardiner, the Clarkes, Dunn, Johnny Gilbert, Ben Hall, Morgan, Power, "Thunderbolt," and O'Malley. The existence of this dangerous bushranging pest was a source of embarrassment to each successive Government, and a standing challenge to every Ministry that accepted office.

It is unnecessary to refer to the mining, agricultural, pastoral and manufacturing statistics of this period, as they will be found in the special chapters treating of the development of these industries.

EIGHTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD, 1872-1893.

The twenty-two years, 1872-93, forming the eighth industrial period, do not call for such lengthened description as former epochs, seeing that the statistics to be found in various parts of this volume illustrate the details of the progress made. The preceding period closed somewhat tamely. Population was not being attracted to the colony in any large numbers; land was not being taken up by selectors, nor was there any sustained effort to develop the resources of the colony. Railway construction was almost suspended; the expenditure by the Government on public works, either from revenue or from the proceeds of loans, was small; while little private capital found its way to the country. In 1870 the production of gold fell to the lowest point since its discovery, the total output of the year being valued at £931,016; the condition of agriculture gave evidence of little progress, and the land taken up f settlement showed a total of 423,692 acres, or rather less than th es for 1862. Under such circumstances the industrial conditions not be said to be hopeful, but causes were at work which were to materially the progress of the country.

e production of gold in 1872 reached the respectable total of 43,582, due to the development of the Hill End and Tambaroora s. The copper-mines, which had not been worked before to any extent, were now systematically developed; and in the same year ich tin deposits of the country received attention. The advantage of colony as a place for settlement was recognized, especially by ns in the southern colonies. Purchases of land from the State eded on an extensive scale, and with increased land sales came ter attention to primary industries. Agriculture expanded; and e-breeding, which had been losing importance since the Land Act 861 came into force, received renewed attention. Nor was sheep-ding neglected, as might have been expected, in favour of the rival stry, for the price of wool was highly satisfactory to the grower, cially during the five years ending with 1875. These combined es made the outlook very bright at the beginning of the period.

bout the year 1872 public attention was awakened to the necessity ushing on with the construction of railways, roads, and bridges, to up the interior of the country, and an expansive public works y, involving the expenditure of large sums of borrowed money, was rdingly initiated. In the year named the expenditure on public ks was £560,931; in 1873, £722,252; and during the next twenty s the average yearly expenditure on public works was—

	£
1874-78	1,565,148
1879-83	3,320,986
1884-88	4,114,984
1889-93	2,489,914

uring 1872 the hands employed on public works was probably not than 3,000; in 1874–78 the yearly average fell little short of 8,000; ng the next five years (1879–83) the numbers reached 16,600; in -88, 20,500; and in 1889–93, 12,500. These figures are exclusive ersons permanently employed in the public departments and on the ways.

oincident with the vigorous construction of public works, and ly on the part of graziers desirous of protecting themselves from incursions of free selectors, there arose a great demand for land, h was readily responded to by the State, and the public lands were ht up with such eagerness that in the five years from 1872 to the revenue derived from this source increased from £800,000 over £3,000,000, and the public exchequer was overflowing. es were high, employment steady, provisions cheap, and numbers en, for the most part young and energetic, were attracted to colony by the alluring prospects held out to them, the annual ement to the population being doubled within a few years. To keep pace with the demand for labour the Government maintained a vigorous immigration policy, and in the ten years which closed with 1885 nearly 49,000 persons were assisted to these shores from the United Kingdom, and were readily absorbed in the general population. In all likelihood industrial conditions would have improved during this period without any lavish expenditure by the Government, but what was probable was made certain by the favourable combination of circumstances alluded to.

In the following table of average wages for each year from 1872 to 1886 the quotations are classified as daily or weekly, according to the ordinary modes of payment :—

Trade or Calling.	1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.		1879.	
Males, per day, without board and lodging.																
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Carpenters	9	0	10	0	9	0	9	6	10	0	10	8	10	8	10	[illegible]
Blacksmiths	9	0	10	0	11	0	10	3	11	0	11	0	10	[illegible]	10	[illegible]
Bricklayers	9	6	10	0	11	0	11	0	12	0	11	0	11	[illegible]	11	[illegible]
Masons	9	6	10	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	10	6	10	[illegible]
Plasterers	10	0	10	0	11	0	11	0	12	0	11	6	11	6	11	[illegible]
Painters	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	[illegible]
Boilermakers	9	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	[illegible]	10	[illegible]
Labourers and navvies	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brickmakers (at per 1,000)	...		...		...		...		22	6	22	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Males, per week, with board and lodging.																
Farm labourers	14	0	13	0	14	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
Shepherds	14	0	14	0	14	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	14	6	14	[illegible]
Females, per week, with board and lodging.																
Housemaids	9	0	10	6	10	6	11	0	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	[illegible]
Laundresses	10	6	10	6	13	6	14	0	14	6	14	6	14	6	14	[illegible]
Nursemaids	7	6	9	0	9	0	10	0	10	6	10	6	10	6	11	[illegible]
General servants	10	0	10	6	10	6	12	6	14	0	14	0	14	0	14	[illegible]
Cooks	10	6	13	6	13	6	13	6	16	0	16	0	17	6	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trade or Calling.	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
Males, per day, without board and lodging.														
Carpenters	10	0	10	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
Blacksmiths	10	0	9	6	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bricklayers	11	0	11	0	12	6	12	6	12	6	12	6	11	[illegible]
Masons	10	6	10	6	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	[illegible]
Plasterers	11	6	11	6	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	6	11	[illegible]
Painters	9	6	9	6	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boilermakers	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Labourers and navvies	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brickmakers (at per 1,000)	23	9	23	9	23	9	23	9	23	9	23	[illegible]	[illegible]	

Trade or Calling.	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
Males, per week, with board and lodging.														
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
labourers	15	0	15	0	17	6	17	6	17	6	17	6	17	6
erds	14	6	14	6	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
Females, per week, with board and lodging.														
emaids	11	6	11	6	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0
dresses	14	6	14	6	17	6	17	6	17	6	17	6	17	6
emaids	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	6	11	6
al servants	14	0	14	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
	18	6	18	6	18	6	18	6	18	6	18	6	18	6

n important factor affecting the industrial conditions during the e period following 1872, which should not be lost sight of, is the rtation of private capital. The colony, during the greater part of istory, has been benefited by the introduction of private capital, in the years prior to 1870 this importation was chiefly in its most ptable form, being accompanied by the owners. The amount of ate money introduced varied somewhat from year to year, but even te as 1873 it did not exceed half a million sterling. In 1874 money menced to flow to the colony largely for investment purposes, and ng the fifteen years which closed with 1890 the extraordinary unt of forty-four millions sterling was received, £6,228,000 coming 885, and £5,392,000 in the following year. It can well be imagined the influx of so large an amount of private money, joined to the expenditure by the State, was felt in every branch of industry. already pointed out, wages rose 25 per cent. in skilled trades, and 40 to 50 per cent. in unskilled trades, and in some years there was man in the colony willing to work who was unemployed. The ay on public works reached a maximum in 1885, when the expendi- was £5,242,807, but in 1888 it fell to £2,106,027. This meant throwing out of employment of 15,000 men, and to mitigate the ress consequent on the inability of the community to absorb so h labour suddenly thrust upon it, the Government started relief s, and an expenditure of £387,000 was incurred upon them before were abandoned.

will be observed, from the narrative just given, that the largest ex- liture by the State occurred in 1885, the same year as that in which argest amount of private money was brought to New South Wales. n 1885 the import of capital fell off year by year until 1893, n it practically ceased, so that the withdrawal of the State from the ur market was not mitigated by the support given by private capital. The following is a statement of the average import of private capital per annum in five-year periods, commencing with 1874:—

	£
1874–78	[illegible]
1879–83	[illegible]
1884–88	[illegible]
1889–93	[illegible]

The three last years of the fourth period showed—

1891	[illegible]
1892	1,067,000
1893	115,000

There can be no doubt that during many years the amount of capital, both public and private, brought to the colony was much larger than could be profitably absorbed, and no small portion of it was necessarily devoted to purposes purely speculative, as evidenced in the unreal value which some forms of property acquired. There was, however, an evil of greater consequence than a temporary inflation of values. It will be readily conceded that the introduction of capital within the limits of absorption and the application of it to productive purposes are conducive to true progress, while on the contrary the over-introduction of capital, however applied, means arrested progress. Of the twenty-two years comprising the eighth industrial period, 1885 and 1886 witnessed the largest introduction of capital, viz., £11,470,807 in the former, and £10,028,952 in the latter year. It is, therefore, not astonishing to find that the value of domestic produce exported in those two years when compared with population was less than in any other year in the period under review. The reader who is interested in pursuing this question will find ample food for reflection in the part of this work dealing with the export trade.

In spite, however, of the drawbacks just indicated, flowing from an unnecessary and at times a wasteful expenditure of public money, and the introduction of private money beyond its requirements, the colony made substantial progress. At no period, except in the five golden years, 1853–7, were wages so high, and in no period was the purchasing power of money so great. The tide of improvement had reached its highest level during the years 1882–85, and began to recede in 1886, when employment became difficult to obtain and wages began to fall. In 1886–87 work in some of the southern district collieries was suspended for nearly twelve months by strikes and disputes; in 1888 the coal-miners of the northern district were on strike for several months; in 1888 and 1889 the completion of various large public works threw out of employment some 12,000 men—no inconsiderable proportion of the unskilled labour of the country—and large numbers of unemployed were congregated in and around Sydney; in 1890 the maritime and pastoral industries were disturbed by strikes and disputes very [illegible]—

community in general, and to the working classes in par-
and in 1892 another disastrous strike occurred, causing the
nines of Broken Hill to remain idle for fully three months.
o the end of 1891 there was little reduction in the nominal rate
es in skilled trades, though for unskilled labour the rates ex-
ed a decided decline. In 1893 there was a heavy fall all round,
second half of that year marks the beginning of a new indus-
riod under vastly changed conditions, which will be referred to
ı :—

ade or Calling.	1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.		1892 and first half 1893.	
	Males, per day, without board and lodging.											
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
ters	9	6	10	6	11	0	9	6	9	6	9	6
niths	10	8	9	8	8	6	8	6	9	8	9	8
yers	11	6	10	6	11	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
	10	6	10	6	11	0	10	0	10	0	9	8
ers	11	0	11	0	10	6	10	6	10	0	10	0
s	9	0	9	0	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	0
akers	10	2	9	0	10	0	10	0	9	8	10	2
ers and Navvies	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	6	7
	Males, per week, with board and lodging.											
bourers	17	8	17	8	15	4	15	4	15	4	13	6
rds	15	4	15	4	......		......		.. ..		......	
	Females, per week, with board and lodging.											
aids	13	6	13	6	14	0	14	0	14	0	10	0
esses	18	8	18	8	18	0	18	0	18	0	14	0
aids	11	4	11	4	8	6	8	6	8	6	8	6
servants	16	8	13	6	14	0	14	0	14	0	11	6
	21	0	21	0	25	0	25	0	25	0	14	0

NINTH INDUSTRIAL PERIOD.

idle to speculate as to what would have been the course of
ial history had the banking crisis of 1893 not occurred. It may,
r, be mentioned that wages had shown signs of falling before
ensions took place. Between the first and second half of 1893
as a fall of about 10 per cent. in the wages of mechanics, and a
at greater fall in the wages of unskilled labourers. In 1894
as no further fall, but employment became more restricted. In
owever, there was a still further drop, the wages of the year
ng for skilled workmen 22 per cent. below the rates of 1892, and
killed labourers about 17½ per cent. During 1896 wages in
trades rose, and at the beginning of the year 1897 there were

some further advances, and generally more regular employment th at any time since the bank crisis; but it is altogether too early say whether the improvement so far visible is merely temporary o indicative of the passing away of the industrial depression.

During the period under review there has been a stoppage of m all forms of speculative activity; on the other hand, there have b a marked extension of agriculture and important mining developme From 1891 to 1896 the area under crop was increased by 812, acres, and the output of gold by 142,736 ounces. The following w the average wages for the more important trades:—

Trade or Calling.	1893 (second half) and 1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Males, per day, without board and lodging.				
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Carpenters	9 6	8 0	8 0	8 6
Blacksmiths	8 0	6 8	8 6	9 0
Bricklayers	9 6	8 6	9 0	9 0
Masons	8 6	7 8	9 0	9 0
Plasterers	8 6	7 0	7 0	8 0
Painters	8 0	7 0	7 0	8 0
Boilermakers	9 0	8 0	8 6	10 0
Labourers and Navvies	6 0	6 0	6 0	6 0
Males, per week, with board and lodging.				
Farm labourers	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
Females, per week, with board and lodging.				
Housemaids	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Laundresses	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0
Nursemaids	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6
General servants	11 6	11 6	11 6	11 6
Cooks	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0

WAGES IN RELATION TO COST OF LIVING.

For the periods under review in the foregoing pages money wages hav alone been dealt with, but it is a matter of much greater importance t ascertain the rate of real wages—that is, the purchasing power of wag in comparison with their nominal value. Such a comparison mu necessarily be defective in some respects, since with changing cond tions come other forms of labour, and with higher wages greater consum tion, so that in comparing present times with days long past there danger of weighing what is now important against what was formerly no consequence; notwithstanding this it gives a more exact notion the value of wages at different periods than can be obtained in any oth way. It also affords the only true standard by which material conditio ferent times can be accurately gauged. In the following table are ared an ordinary mechanic's wages in money, the level of real wages basis of their purchasing power, and the price level of the prin- articles of consumption, for each period commencing with the year It has been thought unnecessary to extend the comparison to rst period of the colony's history, as the conditions of industrial hown in the foregoing pages, allowed little play for the operations onomic laws.

riod.	Level of Money Wages.		Price level of principal Articles of Food.		Level of real Wages.	
	1821-37 Wages=1000.	1893-6 Wages=1000.	1821-37 Prices=1000.	1893-6 Prices=1000.	1821-37 Wages=1000.	1893-6 Wages=1000.
1-1837	1,000	818	1,000	1,548	1,000	528
8-1842	1,154	943	868	1,343	1,329	702
3-1852	769	629	502	777	1,531	809
3-1858	2,400	1,963	1,330	2,058	1,804	953
9-1862	1,615	1,321	864	1,337	1,869	988
3-1872	1,461	1,195	687	1,063	2,127	1,124
3-1892	1,583	1,295	677	1,047	2,338	1,237
3-1896	1,222	1,000	646	1,000	1,891	1,000

ring the years 1821 to 1837 the transportation system was still ll operation, and wage-earners had to compete with bond labour, ith men who, though free, had been so long accustomed to the conditions of servitude that a little above a convict ration seemed ch as they could expect to earn; hence the very low level of both nd money wages during the period. During the next series of 1838-42, wages rose 15 per cent. and as there was a fall in prices to 13 per cent. the level of real wages may be said to have ced nearly one-third. As will have been gathered from the ed description in the earlier part of this chapter, this period closed rously and wages fell 33 per cent.; as it happened, however, the f necessaries fell still more heavily, and real wages were in reality ly better for the whole period from 1843 to 1852 than previously, ugh several years showed a condition of things worse than was ever n in the colony's history. When the full force of the discovery ld began to be felt the depression vanished and wages rose pro- usly, and at one time averaged nearly thrice as much as those now nt. Food and other necessaries also advanced, but not to the same t as wages; so that, estimated by their purchasing power, wages of anics were 80 per cent. higher than in 1821-37, 36 per cent. higher in 1838-42, and 18 per cent. higher than from 1843 to 1852. The 1854 and 1855, taken by themselves, show a rate, both of real and oney wages, much higher than that indicated for the whole period, perhaps higher than attained in any other year; but taking the gold

2 H

era as extending from 1853 to 1858, the level of real wages—
their purchasing power—was not greater than in the subsequent
as the foregoing table shows. From 1853-58 to 1859-62 there w
of 33 per cent. in money wages, but prices fell more heavily
level of real wages actually rose. During the next period ther
further fall in money wages, but not to any great extent; while t
in prices was heavy, far more than compensating for the fall in
During the next period, 1873-92, wages rose and prices fell,
the level of real wages was far higher than at any other tim
history of the colony. Looked at from the point of view of the
labourer, the twenty years embraced within this period were
highest degree satisfactory, and it is hardly likely they will be r
As explained in the detailed review of the eighth period, mucl
prosperity was due to the adventitious stimulus which the in
life of the colony received from the borrowing policy which infe
only the Government but all associations for the investment of
The colony, after the severe regimen of the banking crisis, and t
recovery of 1894 and 1895, has at length entered upon a p
development which promises to be more substantial, if less show
the latter years of the period 1873–92. The prosperity and
ment of the industrial population is often quoted as the prim
the progress of a country. In New South Wales from 1884 t
and perhaps in some other years, these very desirable conditio
obtained under circumstances which have laid a lasting debt-ob
on the community, and which indirectly conduced to the crisis o

The improvement in the lot of farm and station labourers and
servants is still more marked. The rise in wages of male ha
excepting the period 1843-52, been continuous, while the inc
the pay of females has suffered no interruption, even dur
disastrous years preceding the gold discovery. Coincident w
rise of nominal wages which the foregoing table exhibits, there ha
marked advance in the standard of living of the working popul
the colony, an advance even more rapid than that of wages
cheapening of many articles of food and dress which has taken
late years without a corresponding fall of wages, has enabled th
of the bulk of the population to be made more comfortabl
acquisition of comforts begets the desire for further comforts, a
therefore unlikely that any fall in wages will be assented to wh
necessitate the labouring classes decreasing the standard of livi
now enjoy. In this connection it may be pointed out that the e
of the savings banks cannot be taken as conclusive of the prosp
depression of the working population; for if the standard of
indulged in be raised more rapidly than the rate of wages, it is
that the margin out of which savings are made will be de
although the actual condition of the masses may be materially ad

In the foregoing pages the condition of the worker has been co
apart from the value of his production. This latter, however,

ns be overlooked in a review of the industrial progress of the for it is quite possible that what are commonly called prosperous nay be marked by a neglect of productive pursuits, and be due onomic causes, such as the mortgaging of the resources of future o feed the present. Something of the kind has taken place in outh Wales, and the existing depression is, in some sense, a n against the industrial conditions of former years. On page 125 n a comparison of the exports of domestic produce over a series rs, reduced to the common level of 1896 prices. From this it s that, judged by the volume of production—and the exports of ic produce give a fairly reliable index to production—the lowest reached during the past twenty-five years was in 1886; but ar was so marked by lavish State expenditure and by the influx tish capital that little attention was paid at the time to the ndition of productive enterprise. Since the year named there n a remarkable development in the export of domestic produce, t about by increased attention paid to productive pursuits, the g up of the silver-mines, and the fortunate succession of favourable . The year 1891 was the point of highest production, both abso- nd relatively, and though the following year was marked by a fall alues exported, the rates for 1893, 1894,, 1895, and 1896 compare vourably with other years, and it would certainly appear that hstanding the reaction against the inflation of land values so nt a few years ago, there is nothing in the circumstances of lony to warrant the distrust of the future which prevails in quarters, and which directly led to the financial scare of 1893.

EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION.

THE population of a country is naturally divided into two broad d
sions—breadwinners and dependents. The census returns of N
South Wales for 1891 showed on the side of the breadwinners 471,
persons, of whom 382,385 were males, and 89,502 were females, whil
dependents numbered 649,203, comprising 223,285 males and 425,
females. In addition to these, there were 2,333 males and 531 fem
unspecified as to occupation, and these figures have been omitted in
following pages. The female worker is very rarely the breadwinner of
family, and the number of persons dependent on such is, therefore,
large; on the other hand, not a few of the female workers styled bre
winners earn less than is needed for their own support, and a ri
classification would require that they should be placed in a divis
between the breadwinners and dependents, but this is a refinement wh
cannot now be attempted. It would, however, be reasonable to set
persons dependent on women against those classed as breadwinners w
are only partially self-supporting, so that the whole of the depende
may without much error be said to be supported by the male bre
winners. On the 382,385 of the last-named class there were, theref
649,203 persons dependent, giving a proportion of 170 dependents
every 100 male breadwinners. The term "dependent" is not altogethe
happy one, seeing that under that designation are included marri
women and others who perform domestic duties, and the term can o
be justified on the ground that for such services no money-wages
paid.

BREADWINNERS.

The breadwinners may be subdivided into divisions indicating th
status as workers as follows:—

Grade.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Employers	53,403	2,640	56,043
Persons working on their own account	49,482	14,123	63,605
Relatives assisting	8,943	7,526	16,469
Wage-earners	245,175	54,857	300,032
Persons not rightly classified either as employers or wage-earners	6,597	7,517	14,114
Unemployed	18,512	2,810	21,322
Not specified	273	29	302
Total	382,385	89,502	471,887

It may be pointed out that persons who were employed, but who neglected to state whether they were wage-earners or not, have been assumed to belong to the grade of wage-earners; and civil servants and other State employés have been included in the same category.

The employers comprise breadwinners who are assisted in their occupations by paid workers; the wage-earners whom they employ numbered 256,734, being the total stated above less 43,298 who were employed in domestic pursuits and not assisting the breadwinners. The proportion of wage-earners to every 100 employers was, therefore, 458, an average pointing to a very large number of small employers. Persons working on their own account are extremely numerous, and are especially strong amongst the farming classes and those following trading pursuits.

The persons not rightly assignable to any of the three classes just mentioned largely comprise those who derive incomes from sources which cannot be directly related to any occupation, and who are popularly styled as of independent means, the remainder being persons who vaguely described themselves as capitalists, householders, mine-owners, contractors, merchants, and the like.

The relatives returned as assisting do not form a very numerous class. They are mainly found engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which there were 7,617 males and 6,325 females. The fewness of the females is accounted for by the fact that domestic duties take up the whole of their time, and even if such were not the case, the only branch of farming in which their services could be profitably utilised is dairying.

DEPENDENTS.

The dependents may be grouped under four subdivisions:—(*a*) persons employed in household duties without wages, and of these there were 210,799, viz., 210,701 females and only 98 males; (*b*) persons of tender years unable to earn their own livelihood, numbering 235,590, of whom 118,454 were males and 117,136 females; (*c*) relatives and others not performing household duties, who numbered 96,140 males and 94,123 females, in all 190,263; and (*d*) persons dependent on charity, or under legal detention—12,551 persons, viz., 8,593 males and 3,958 females, belonging to this class.

The persons performing household duties without wages are chiefly wives and daughters of breadwinners; the number who could not be so described was 21,909. The relatives and others not performing household duties were for the most part aged persons, the parents or grandparents of the breadwinners. There were, however, some young persons returned under this category, these comprising daughters or wives who could not be classed as performing domestic duties, or who desired not to be so described. The larger portion of the persons dependent on

charity were living in public institutions, and, classed according t
were as follow :—

Age Groups.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	187	151	338
5 years and under 15......	929	849	1,778
15 „ „ 20......	257	307	564
20 „ „ 25......	523	279	802
25 „ „ 45......	2,850	1,073	3,923
45 „ „ 65......	2,133	826	2,959
65 and upwards	1,701	460	2,161
Age not stated	13	13	26
Total	8,593	3,958	12,551

The indigent people of 65 years and upwards numbered 2,161
total number of persons in the colony of these ages was 28,365, a
it may be said that out of every 100 persons who reach 65 years,
enter the asylums for the destitute.

AGES OF BREADWINNERS AND DEPENDENTS.

The record of the ages of the workers is interesting chiefly as sh
the employment of young people. The number of children und
years who were employed was 12,437, of whom 8,612 were males and
females, the majority of each sex being in their fifteenth year. So
can be estimated, there were not more than 1,500 children of 13
and under employed in the colony. This is a natural result o
compulsory clauses of the Public Instruction Act, which requir
attendance, unless with valid excuse, of all children from 6 to 14
for a term of 70 days in each half-year.

Reference has already been made to the number of dependents
pared with the breadwinners. Still more interesting is the group
the dependents and breadwinners under ages. The following f
refer to males only :—

Age Groups.	Bread-winners.	Dependents.	Total.	Dependents per thousand persons in each age group.
Under 15 years	8,612	209,302	217,914	960
15 years and under 20	48,078	5,461	53,539	102
20 „ „ „ 25	56,521	771	57,292	13
25 „ „ „ 45	178,626	2,987	181,613	16
45 „ „ „ 65	75,686	2,259	77,945	29
65 years and upwards	14,069	2,458	16,527	149
Not stated	793	47	840	56
Total............	382,385	223,285	605,670	369

The age group in which the least number of dependents is found is that
n 20 to 25, where the proportion per thousand is only 13. The propor-
increases to 16 from 25 to 45, to 29 from 45 to 65, and to 149 per
usand persons over 65 years of age. This gradation agrees some-
at with the ascertained rate of sickness referred to in the chapter
ting to Vital Statistics, and it is a very probable assumption that
dependency of males, when not caused by criminality, is due to
ditions of health. With females it is otherwise, as will be seen from
following table. Under the category of dependents are included
es and daughters performing domestic duties, and children of
urally dependent ages; and, as the table shows, the proportion of
endents decreases with the progressive ages. The explanation of
will be found in the fact that the number of widows and deserted
es is largest at the older ages while the number of single women
pelled to rely entirely on their own earnings is also greater :—

Age Groups.	Bread-winners.	Dependents.	Total.	Dependents per thousand persons in each age group.
Under 15 years	3,825	209,333	213,158	982
15 years and under 20	23,249	30,869	54,118	570
20 " " " 25	21,015	31,997	53,012	604
25 " " " 45	26,680	105,246	131,926	798
45 " " " 65	11,487	39,912	51,399	777
65 years and upwards	3,168	8,384	11,552	726
Not stated	78	177	255	694
Total	89,502	425,918	515,420	826

The number of women following gainful pursuits was 89,502, and of
se 85,677 were of the age of 15 years and upwards. The total number
women of these ages was 302,262, so that 28·3 per cent. of women
r 15 years of age were breadwinners. If these figures be compared
th the proportions obtaining in other countries, they will be found to
very small, and must certainly be looked upon as evidence of the
perior lot of the Australian women. In most European countries even
married women are compelled to work for such wages as they can
cure, in order to assist in the support of their families, but fortu-
tely the necessity for such labour is not yet general in this colony.

Amongst women there is a marked absence of combination for trade
rposes, and to this must be attributed most of the evils which attend
men's industrial work. In some trades women are fairly well paid,
in others the current pay for a reasonable day's work is far below
sum actually required to maintain a respectable life, so that women
o have no assistance from relatives are sometimes compelled to make
onishing sacrifices to enable them to live at all. This undue lowering
wages, as already pointed out, is indirectly due to want of combination,

but is also greatly influenced by the competition of other women, chiefly wives, who are not solely dependent upon their own earnings for support, and who, therefore, are in a position to undersell their less fortunately situated sisters.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the colony were ascertained at the census of 1891, and were classified on a uniform system adopted at the Census Conference held at Hobart prior to the enumeration. The method of classification adopted by the Australasian colonies at the previous census was based on the English classification of 1881, which was both unscientific and unsatisfactory.

As already explained, the population is divided into two great divisions—breadwinners and dependents. The former are arranged in the natural classes of primary producers and distributors, and these again into their various orders and sub-orders. Dividing the population into the seven classes, and excluding 2,333 males and 531 females who did not state their occupation, the number falling under each was as follows:—

Class.	Occupation.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
I	Professional—Embracing all persons, not otherwise classed, mainly engaged in the Government and defence of the country, and in satisfying the intellectual, moral, and social wants of its inhabitants	31,491	21,089	10,402
II	Domestic—Embracing all persons engaged in the supply of board and lodging, and in rendering personal services for which remuneration is usually paid	55,867	17,659	38,208
III	Commercial—Embracing all persons directly connected with the hire, sale, transfer, distribution, storage, and security of property and materials, and with the transport of persons or goods, or engaged in effecting communication	86,629	81,291	5,338
IV	Industrial—Embracing all persons not otherwise classed, who are principally engaged in various works of utility, or in specialities connected with the manufacture, construction, modification, or alteration of materials so as to render them more available for the various uses of man, but excluding, as far as possible, all who are mainly or solely in the service of commercial interchange	140,451	122,650	17,[illegible]

ss.	Occupation.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
V	Agricultural, pastoral, mineral, and other primary producers—Embracing all persons mainly engaged in the cultivation or acquisition of food products, and in obtaining other raw materials from natural sources	147,026	134,908	12,118
I	Indefinite—Embracing all persons who derive incomes from services rendered, but the direction of which services cannot be exactly determined	10,423	4,788	5,635
II	Dependents—Embracing all persons dependent upon relatives or natural guardians, including wives, children, and relatives not otherwise engaged in pursuits for which remuneration is paid, and all persons depending upon private charity, or whose support is a burthen on the public revenue	649,203	223,285	425,918

It is a matter greatly to be regretted that no exact comparison can made between the occupations of the people in 1891 and at previous nsus periods. The tabulation for 1881 fortunately distinguished tween workers and dealers, but some large divisions of workers re entirely ignored or placed with others to whom they were in no se allied, and the separation cannot now be made. The following oad groups show the manner in which the employments were distri- ted in 1881 and 1891, but the classification cannot in any sense be garded as perfect. The figures relate to males only, and 3,048 and 33 whose occupation was not returned, are omitted in 1881 and 1891 spectively :—

Occupation.	1881.		1891.	
	Number.	Proportion per cent.	Number.	Proportion per cent.
Professional	11,546	2·83	21,089	3·48
Domestic	12,689	3·11	17,659	2·91
Commercial	41,441	10·15	81,291	13·42
Industrial	97,293	23·84	122,650	20·25
Primary producers	96,091	23·55	134,908	22·28
Indefinite	3,631	0·89	4,788	0·79
Dependents	145,410	35·63	223,285	36·87
Total	408,101	100·00	605,670	100·00

The proportions in the foregoing table refer to the whole population ; ore useful comparison is perhaps afforded by taking the wage-earning pulation only. Comparing, on this basis, the proportions employed at each period, it will be found that there has been a slight falling off in the proportion of persons engaged in domestic pursuits, for while the total so employed has increased from 12,689 to 17,659, the percentage has fallen from 4·83 to 4·62 of the total workers. The industrial class has apparently declined from 37·04 to 32·08 per cent., and so far as can now be estimated the falling off has been in the proportion of unskilled workers. Agricultural and pastoral pursuits afforded employment in 1881 to 77,698 persons as compared with 98,748 in 1891; but the proportion to the whole workers would appear to have declined from 29·58 to 25·82 per cent. On the other hand, the commercial class increased from 15·78 per cent. of the working population to 21·26 per cent., and the mining population from 7·00 to 8·09 per cent. For reasons already given, these comparisons must not be too closely insisted upon.

In 1881 only 54,963 females were returned as wage-earners, and of these 25,000, or 45·49 per cent., were following domestic pursuits, and 10,326, or 18·79 per cent., industrial; as compared with 89,502 female wage-earners in 1891, of whom 38,208, or 42·69 per cent., were engaged in domestic pursuits, and 17,801, or 19·89 per cent., were industrial workers. The greatest change in the two years has been in the number of professional women; these numbering only 4,288, or 7·80 per cent. of the workers, in 1881, as against 10,402, or 11·62 per cent., in 1891. Few women were engaged at the time of either census in agricultural, pastoral, or other occupations of a like character. The following are the classified figures for the two census periods, omitting 2,846 and 531 not stated in 1881 and 1891 respectively:—

Occupation.	1881.		1891.	
	Number.	Proportion per cent.	Number.	Proportion per cent.
Professional	4,288	1·27	10,402	2·02
Domestic	25,000	7·41	38,208	7·41
Commercial	4,194	1·24	5,338	1·04
Industrial	10,326	3·06	17,801	3·45
Primary producers	8,905	2·64	12,118	2·35
Indefinite	2,250	0·67	5,635	1·09
Dependents	282,510	83·71	425,918	82·64
Total	337,473	100·00	515,420	100·00

It does not appear that there has been any displacement of male by female workers during the decade; it is true that the proportion of females engaged in gainful occupations has increased from 16·9 per cent. to 18·1 per cent. of the total persons employed, but this increase is due rather to the greater opportunities offering than to the displacement of persons already employed. In professional pursuits the proportion of nales has increased from 27·1 in 1881 to 31·7 per cent. in 1891 ; in nestic pursuits, from 66·3 to 68·4 per cent. ; and in industrial pur-ts, from 9·6 to 12·7 per cent. In the other two great classes the portion has fallen, as the following table shows :—

Class of Occupation.	1881.		1891.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Professional	72·9	27·1	68·3	31·7
Domestic	33·7	66·3	31·6	68·4
Commercial	90·8	9·2	93·8	6·2
Industrial	90·4	9·6	87·3	12·7
Primary producers	91·5	8·5	91·8	8·2
All Occupations......	83·1	16·9	81·9	18·1

In the special chapters devoted to agriculture, pastoral pursuits, and ning, details are given which illustrate the progress and present ndition of these important industries. No further reference to them therefore, needed in this chapter.

MANUFACTORIES.

There is no Act in force in the colony at present which makes it perative for proprietors of factories and works to supply to the Statis-cian an annual return of their operations ; but, although incomplete for atistical purposes, some very valuable information will in the future be tained under the new Factories and Shops Act, which provides that ery employer affected by the Act shall, if required, furnish the fixed te of wages, or remuneration for piecework, payable to every person his employ either inside or outside the factory. The Act, which so compels the employer to keep a record of the names and ages of s employés, distinguishing those under 18 years from older workers, me into force on the 1st January, 1897. So far its operations re confined to certain proclaimed districts, but its provisions will timately be extended to the whole colony. At the present time rticulars of the operations of factories and works are withheld in ry few cases, and where they are not given it is the duty of the col-ctor, who is usually a person possessing special knowledge of the district, make up to the best of his ability an estimate of the employment forded by the firm which refuses to furnish the information. Any mptation, on the one hand, to show a greater volume of business than actually transacted during the year is reduced to a minimum by the ct that to do so would not benefit a person in any way, as no individual gures are disclosed ; and, on the other hand, a tendency to show a smaller nount of business than is actually the case is guarded against by the rupulous care taken to prevent disclosure of the contents of a schedule,

and the pledge of the Statistician that under no circumstances shal
a document ever be used in connection with any system of taxatio

The method of collecting the returns is to supply the police w
number of blank forms, one of which is left with the proprie
manager of each factory or work. This is filled up by the per
charge, and given to the police, who send it to the Statistician.
figures are carefully examined in the Statistical Office, and, if nece
compared with the returns of preceding years; and, in the event
scrutiny disclosing any apparent inaccuracy, the proprietor of the w
communicated with on the subject. In tabulating the schedules
those factories and works which have been kept going all the year
are included, with the exception of sugar-mills, which are accep
they have been working for at least six months out of the t
Establishments which do not use mechanical power were for
excluded unless they employed at least five hands; but, beginning
the year 1896, the minimum in such cases was reduced to four, in
to secure uniformity with Victoria. All works and factories in
machinery is used are included, as it is obvious that an establis
where only two or three men are employed to look after machiner
turn out a greater quantity of work than another in which the se
of a much larger number of men, unassisted by mechanical powe
utilised. Another change made in 1896 with the object of placin
statistics on a uniform basis with those of the sister colony, wa
inclusion of dressmakers and milliners, who were not enumerated b
that date. A third change consisted in the exclusion from the re
of certain blacksmiths partly engaged in jobbing work, and not c
under any specific heading.

Glancing at the table which is given below, it will be seen that
1892 the statistical year was not coincident with the calendar
the returns being collected for the twelve months ending with M
but from the year named the annual period begins on the 1st Ja
and ends on the 31st December. The figures are, of course, su
to those slight deviations which are incidental to the collectio
compilation of most branches of statistics; but when this is bor
mind they may be accepted as being on the same basis until
The only periods for which explanations are necessary are 189
1896. In 1892 the statistics were collected under the Census
Industrial Returns Act, and as originally published were not on the
basis as those for other years, a number of workers who did not m
come within the scope of the returns having been included.
comprised dressmakers and milliners; biscuit-makers, who were
employed in the baking of bread; tailors, who were also retail cloth
manufacturers of slop clothing employing less than ten hands; b
smiths whose work consisted chiefly in effecting repairs; and plu
working for themselves. As they are now presented, however, the f
for 1892 have been brought into line with those for other
Beginning with the year 1896, the factory returns of the colo

ained above, were placed upon a new basis, in terms of an agreement ed at by the Victorian and New South Wales Statistical Offices, the object of enabling a fair comparison to be made between the stries of the two colonies.

lthough New South Wales cannot be considered an important facturing country, this source of national wealth has by no means neglected. During the year 1896 there were 3,106 manufactories orks of various descriptions, employing altogether a total of 49,055 s, of whom 42,791 were males, and 6,264 females. 2,118 of these s had machinery in operation of a total capacity of 44,839 horse- r, of which 33,253 horse-power was actually used during the year; lant in all works was valued at about £5,535,905. The average value ant per establishment was £1,782; and the average horse-power 21·2, hich 15·7 was actually used. The hands per factory averaged 16, average in the metropolis being 24, and in the country about 11. pared with the scale on which manufactories are worked in the r countries of the world, these figures appear very small, but they ld evoke no surprise when the nature of the works and the sparse- of the population throughout a large portion of the colony are n into consideration :—

ear.	Number of Hands employed.			Year.	Number of Hands employed.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
86-87	40,160	3,367	43,527	1892	41,298	2,970	44,268
87-88	39,365	3,686	43,051	1893	36,412	2,506	38,918
88-89	41,299	4,265	45,564	1894	39,529	3,222	42,751
89-90	40,725	4,264	44,989	1895	39,987	3,846	43,833
90-91	41,582	4,553	46,135	1896	42,791	6,264	49,055

f the increase of 5,222 hands in 1896 shown in the table, the ge in the basis of compilation was responsible for 3,833, namely, 4 males and 2,719 females. The net increase in the hands employed hese industries during the year may, therefore, be set down at 1,389. he figures in the foregoing statement represent the number usually loyed; but besides these there are other hands whose employment is al. Thus, in 1896 the average number of persons finding employ- t was 49,055, whereas the greatest number employed was 57,747, the ss comprising 7,023 males and 1,669 females, in all 8,692. The maxima he different industries, as might be naturally expected, fell at various ods during the year, so that the whole number of 57,747 were not loyed at any specific time in the various industries dealt with under classification of manufactories and works, and it is probable that greatest number employed at any one time did not in reality exceed usual number of persons for whom employment was found by more 5,800. Much the same condition of things obtained in other years, and it may be accepted that in the busy seasons of the year one-eigh more hands are employed than the average of the whole twelve mon

The table given below, in which the hands employed are divided i eleven classes, shows the average number of persons employed in ea class during the past ten years. As before explained, the figures f 1896 have been compiled on a new basis, for comparison with Victo The classes principally affected are Nos. III and VIII, to the first o which 3,686 hands were added by the change of system, and to t second, 136 hands. Keeping these alterations in view, a comparis over the ten years discloses the fact that the progress made has bee very slight—in some classes, indeed, a backward tendency havin been evinced. For instance, in Class III (clothing and textile fabrics there were 5,532 hands employed, while in 1896, on the same basis, there were only 5,190. In Classes IV, VII, and IX there were also decreases during the decade. A detailed analysis—too voluminous, however, to be given in a work of this kind—would show that the greatest progress has been made in domestic industries—that is to say, in the industries which naturally arise from the circumstances of the population, and in those connected with the preparation of perishable products; and in metal works, due principally to the extension of the smelting industry. The total number of hands set down in the table as having been employed in 1896 is the largest during the decade; but when allowance is made for the change in the basis of compilation, it is found that higher totals were reached in 1888–9 and 1890–1:—

Class of Industry.	Number of hands employed.									
	1886-7	1887-8	1888-9	1889-90	1890-91	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
I. Treating raw materials, the product of pastoral pursuits	2,637	2,114	2,338	2,422	2,046	1,983	3,045	4,020	3,642	[illegible]
II. Connected with food and drink, or the preparation thereof	8,063	8,543	7,417	8,244	7,726	6,959	7,243	7,254	8,840	[illegible]
III. Clothing or textile fabrics	5,532	5,577	5,729	5,518	6,005	4,398	4,508	5,394	6,014	[illegible]
IV. Building materials	8,275	7,384	7,675	6,982	7,712	7,648	5,709	6,176	5,571	[illegible]
V. Metal works, machinery, etc.	7,219	7,701	8,986	8,211	10,236	9,760	6,686	7,373	7,745	8,704
VI. Shipbuilding, repairing, etc.	1,077	791	1,061	1,225	1,075	1,506	1,390	1,506	1,086	[illegible]
VII. Furniture, bedding, etc.	1,380	1,323	1,477	1,424	1,234	1,048	637	794	772	[illegible]
VIII. Paper, printing, binding, etc.	3,659	3,771	4,378	4,688	4,200	4,494	4,138	4,284	4,731	[illegible]
IX. Vehicles, harness, and saddlery	2,422	2,388	2,545	2,475	1,969	2,551	1,375	1,548	[illegible]	[illegible]
X. Light, fuel, and heat	745	933	1,299	1,414	1,545	1,895	1,976	[illegible]	1,424	[illegible]
XI. Miscellaneous	2,518	2,526	2,659	2,386	2,387	2,026	2,211	2,720	2,670	[illegible]
Total hands employed	43,527	43,051	45,564	44,989	46,135	44,268	38,918	42,751	[illegible]	[illegible]

intaining the same broad classification as before, the division of the yés into grades discloses interesting results. About 9 per cent. of rsons employed in 1896 were managers or overseers, and 3 per cent. . The number of persons working as engineers, etc., apart from anufacturing operations, was 1,609, giving a proportion of over 3 ent., while 6 per cent. were employed as carters, messengers, etc. ollowing are the figures of each class :—

Description of Industries.	Managers and Overseers employed.	Clerks employed.	Engineers, etc., employed.	Workers in Factory, Mill, etc.	Carters, Messengers, etc.	Total.
ing raw material, the production pastoral pursuits	307	56	145	2,848	196	3,552
ring materials used as food or ink	953	428	539	6,771	847	9,538
ing and textile industries	583	112	26	8,032	123	8,876
facture of building materials	795	179	358	3,663	851	5,846
and machinery works	424	197	217	7,600	266	8,704
uilding, repairing, etc.	42	22	22	999	47	1,132
ture and bedding works	127	19	7	982	32	1,167
, printing, binding, and engraving	531	315	46	3,859	187	4,938
les, harness, and saddlery	220	20	6	1,327	15	1,588
and heat	89	44	170	536	20	859
llaneous	305	107	73	2,215	155	2,855
Total	4,376	1,499	1,609	38,832	2,739	49,055

ild labour is very little employed in the factories of the colony. This at might be expected, seeing that by the law regulating primary tion children are required to attend school until they reach their eenth year. It was found at the Census of 1891 that in all ations only 8,612 males and 3,825 females under 15 years of age employed; in 1896 the total number working in factories was viz., 543 males and 150 females. These last figures may, however, ken as only approximate, and it is not improbable that, owing to emarkable reluctance of female apprentices and improvers to state ages, the number is under the truth.

Ther en some tendency for the number of hands employed in metrop istrict to increase faster than those in the other portion the col The facilities for the establishment of large industri and ar dney are considerable—a commanding position as reg commun with the outside world, propinquity to the coal-fie easy com ation with the chief seats of raw production in the colo density of the population, and abundant water supply—these h tended to centre in the metropolitan district all the chief industries. the extra-met politan districts the principal works are saw-mills, sm ing works, s gar-mills, and flour-mills, or industries of a dom character int ded to meet a day-to-day demand, or for the treatm of perishable goods.

The following table shows er of hands employed in the met politan district as compare e remainder of the colony for past ten years ended with 18 :—

Year.	Hands employed.		Year.	Hands employed.	
	Metropolitan District.	Other Districts.		Metropolitan District.	Other Distric
1886-87	24,900	18,627	1892	24,128	20,1
1887-88	24,199	18,852	1893	22,672	16,2
1888-89	25,885	19,679	1894	24,934	17,8
1889-90	24,999	19,990	1895	25,287	18,5
1890-91	28,058	18,077	1896	28,346	20,7

There is a vast field open for the development of manufactures in N South Wales. Producing, as it does, the raw material of various ki necessary for supplying the primary wants of civilization, it is evid that the colony must ere long find a way into some parts of this fi The one great cause which has hitherto operated to prevent the lar development of manufactures is the impossibility of drawing from population so small and so widely scattered a fair profit on the capi required to carry them on. Hitherto the chief employment found labour and capital has been in the primary productive industries, these industries continuing to be profitable and population to incre whenever the prospect of profit presents itself, manufactures, adapt to the conditions as well as to the wants of the country, will natur establish themselves, affording other investments for capital, a avenues for the employment of labour.

PREPARATION OF RAW MATERIALS.

Below will be found a table showing the number of wor the preparation of raw materials, the product of pastoral p of employment offering in these works is, of course, not a little by the seasons :—

iption of Works.	Number of Works.	Average number of Hands employed.						Horse-power of Plant or Machinery.	Approximate Value of Plant or Machinery.
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.		
									£
wn	36	47	9	34	486	75	651	830	36,534
il and Grease	2	2	1	..	6	..	9	14	350
	8	11	1	4	21	8	45	93	7,340
ineries	4	4	2	4	15	14	39	61	3,600
	109	131	15	32	992	41	1,211	865	64,485
ing and Scouring	77	112	28	71	1,328	58	1,597	1,210	78,545
l	236	307	56	145	2,848	196	3,552	3,073	190,854

ng-down and wool-washing works confined to station use have n included in the above table. The number of hands given is the at work throughout the year, but at certain seasons many more are at work, especially at wool-washing. As would naturally be ted, women do not find much employment in the industries com- n the foregoing category, the total employed being only six. The of children employed is also small—namely, twenty-five, all The production of tallow is an important industry, the quantities ctured in 1894 and 1895 being far larger than the production of vious year. The rise in prices which occurred during 1892 pastoralists to slaughter and boil down part of their surplus pecially the old ewes, and although the price of tallow has fallen en, the production has increased enormously. During 1894 the reached the large figure of 847,236 cwt., a quantity greatly in f that exported in any previous year, and the slight decrease in orts during 1895 was more than counterbalanced by the large in local consumption. In 1896, however, the production fell 983 cwt., the lowest quantity produced since 1893. The following nt gives the estimated quantity of tallow made in the colony, ishing the amount locally consumed from that exported :—

Year.	Estimated quantity of New South Wales Tallow.		
	Exported.	Locally consumed.	Produced.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1886–87	99,451	110,850	210,301
1887–88	191,791	143,501	335,292
1888–89	174,321	175,840	350,161
1889–90	151,491	141,480	292,971
1890–91	223,618	123,080	346,698
1892	313,331	123,053	436,384
1893	657,591	183,065	840,656
1894	847,236	221,864	1,069,100
1895	794,920	282,295	1,077,215
1896	404,054	166,929	570,983

PREPARATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

The establishments connected with the preparation of food and form one of the largest classes of works in New South Wales. In places which come under this heading, and from which returns received, the number of hands employed is small, owing to the of the operations carried on, although the output may be consid this remark applies particularly to butter factories:—

Description of Manufactory or Work.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Horse-power of Plant or Machinery.
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	
Aerated Waters	158	188	32	17	584	157	978	1,148
Bacon	10	15	2	2	38	6	63	57
Biscuits	5	11	18	8	396	12	445	42
Breweries	57	87	63	46	472	123	791	1,122
*Butter	140	160	40	73	309	52	634	1,272
Cheese	15	17	5	2	86	3	113	194
†Condiments, Coffee, and Spices	22	38	45	8	433	44	568	72
Confectionery	17	20	17	6	379	53	475	91
Cornflour	5	8	3	6	33	8	58	391
Creameries	152	160	11	32	107	29	339	920
Flour	81	104	71	89	362	95	721	3,448
Ice and Refrigerating	32	56	59	120	718	94	1,047	2,797
Jam and Fruit-canning	12	20	14	13	389	16	452	222
Meat Preserving and Curing	13	14	14	18	880	45	971	629
Sugar Mills	23	52	30	86	1,206	101	1,475	3,486
Sugar Refineries	1	1	3	11	368	8	391	440
Vinegar	2	2	1	2	11	1	17	4
Total	745	953	428	539	6,771	847	9,538	16,336

* Including 1 butterine factory. † Including 1 condensed milk factory.

Included with the foregoing figures are 21 female overseers or agers, 5 clerks, 635 workers in the factory, and 14 persons workin side factory—in all, 675 females, of whom 23 were children. In establishments as aerated water factories, breweries, butter and factories, flour and sugar mills, and jam factories, there is a large tion in the amount of labour employed, in some seasons many more being engaged than in others. Taking the whole of the above wor a portion of the year there are probably fully 1,500 more hands em than are given in the table.

The brewing industry has been stationary since 1886, when an of 3d. per gallon was imposed on the local manufacture of beer. open to question, however, whether the falling off in produ in comparison with the growing population, is due to this as there is evidence that the depression which marked the the different colonies during the year immediately preceding

about a lessened demand for all forms of alcoholic liquors.
ice value of ale and beer imported, and on which duty was
ing 1896, was £246,625—not a very large amount consider-
£163,801 of it was for beer in bottle, which the colonial
are only now attempting to produce on any extensive scale.
wing table illustrates the present position of the brewing and
industry and its progress during the last ten years; the
manufactured in 1886–87 must be accepted as approximate
l those given for the next four years, during which period the
l year did not coincide with the calendar year, represent the
s on which excise was paid during 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1891
ely:—

Year.	Hands Employed.	Manufacture of Ale, Beer, etc.
	No.	gallons.
1886–87	987	10,000,000
1887–88	804	9,300,200
1888–89	850	9,515,200
1889–90	826	9,619,600
1890–91	793	10,594,020
1892	745	10,807,200
1893	685	9,753,200
1894	744	9,508,400
1895	848	9,821,840
1896	791	10,177,360

owth of sugar-cane in the northern districts of the colony,
manufacture of sugar therefrom, have now become important
s, the output in 1896 being 571,140 cwt. of sugar and 2,520,580
f molasses. Since 1887 there has been a considerable increase
ea of land planted with sugar-cane, and in the year ended
1, 1897, there were 31,053 acres under this crop, of which
cres were productive. In 1877–8 the number of sugar-mills
of which 24 used steam-power, whilst 26 were worked by
d the number of workmen employed was 1,065. These had
in the year 1885–86 to 83 steam-mills and 19 worked by
ilst the number of men employed and the quantity of sugar and
turned out had correspondingly increased; but since that time
in the value of sugar has caused the closing of many of the
stablishments, and the cane grown has been to an increasing
ld to the large factories, which pay to the growers a price
tly below that given prior to 1885. Almost everywhere the
to concentrate the manufacture of sugar in large central
nents is increasing. In the West Indies and elsewhere small
rapidly disappearing to make room for larger establishments,
siness is strictly confined to the industrial process of sugar

making, the planters attending solely to the cultivation of tl The following shows the particulars of the sugar industry for ten years :—

Year.	Sugar Mills.		Horse-power.		Manufacture of—	
	Worked by Steam.	Otherwise Worked.	Steam.	Other.	Raw Sugar.	Molasses.
	No.	No.			cwt.	gallons.
1886–87	57	7	2,531	21	275,000	507,000
1887–88	57	7	2,210	26	450,000	880,000
1888–89	36	......	1,995	...	225,580	241,088
1889–90	38	2	3,034	10	380,320	494,145
1890–91	31	2	*	*	530,660	1,074,080
1892	24	1	3,594	70	485,780	789,230
1893	25	3	3,244	16	478,605	1,079,940
1894	23	2	3,476	*	452,756	1,573,886
1895	23	1	3,430	4	444,261	1,427,458
1896	22	1	3,479	7	571,140	2,520,580

* Not ascertained.

In addition to the 1,475 hands usually employed in 1896, the 92 others employed at busy periods, comprising altogether 1,567 very possible that casual hands have been included in some of th shown in the foregoing statement.

There was only one establishment in the colony for refining ra in 1896. The quantity of sugar melted during the year was 8 cwt., of which 356,840 cwt. was imported, chiefly from Queenslan remaining 509,160 cwt. comprised raw sugar produced in Ne Wales. The returns relating to sugar refineries for the last ten y given in the subjoined table :—

Year.	Sugar Refineries.	Hands employed.	Quantity of Sugar melted.	Year.	Sugar Refineries.	Hands employed.
	No.	No.	cwt.		No.	No.
1886–87	2	214	510,000	1892	1	372
1887–88	1	200	537,900	1893	2	672
1888–89	1	210	550,149	1894	2	440
1889–90	1	230	600,000	1895	1	342
1890–91	1	300	660,000	1896	1	391

The hands given above as engaged during the year are only t constant employment; in addition, there are many men emplo longer or shorter periods in discharging ships, storing sugar, an work incidental to the trade.

Almost from the introduction of the sugar-growing industry South Wales, the manufacture of sugar has been largely in th

Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose mills on the Clarence, ichmond, and the Tweed have been referred to in another part of rork. This company also owns the only sugar refinery in the ', where the produce of their local mills is refined, together with ion of the output of their factories in Fiji and Queensland.

amount of mill-power for grinding and dressing grain is ample for ig the flour consumed in the colony; and the close approach of South Wales to the position of producing sufficient grain for its equirements will not, therefore, make an increase in the number ır-mills probable, as those in existence are not kept going to their ipacity. The figures in the following table approximate closely to tual amount of wheat treated in the local mills:—

	New South Wales Wheat treated.	Imported Wheat treated.	Total Wheat treated.	Total Flour made.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.
-87	2,402,057	984,773	3,386,830	67,736
-88	4,460,629	233,535	4,694,164	93,883
89	3,975,030	2,238,330	6,213,360	129,445
-90	2,442,000	3,255,168	5,697,168	118,691
-91	5,049,000	634,008	5,683,008	118,396
	3,120,340	883,292	4,003,632	83,409
	6,356,260	459,740	6,816,000	142,000
	5,426,262	254,010	5,680,272	118,339
	5,947,859	358,861	6,306,720	131,390
	4,354,224	2,238,576	6,592,800	137,350

iculars of the flour-mills in operation in the colony for the last ars are given below:—

ar.	Flour-mills.			Year.	Flour-mills.		
	No.	Horse-power.	Hands Employed.		No.	Horse-power.	Hands Employed.
6-87	133	2,650	571	1892	72	1,936	568
7-88	128	2,781	599	1893	87	2,531	699
8-89	110	2,877	628	1894	83	3,305	696
9-90	103	2,638	635	1895	87	3,611	678
0-91	102	2,363	594	1896	81	3,448	721

MANUFACTORIES OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES.

The third class of industries is connected with the manufac clothing and textile fabrics. The different descriptions of wor given below:—

Description of Manufactory or Work.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.										
		Managers and Overseers.		Clerks, &c.		Engine-drivers.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.		Carters, Messengers, &c.		Tot	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Boots and shoes	[illegible]	156	16	33	3	14	2,402	651	51	..	2,650	[illegible]
Clothing	17	55	4	23	1	4	227	526	14	7	366	[illegible]
Dressmaking and Millinery	133	22	173	4	1	2	14	1,556	7	5	42	1,7
Furriers............	3	3	..	..	.	..	27	14	..	..	30	1
Hats and caps	5	6	3	2	..	1	13	47	1	..	23	5
Oilskin and water-proof clothing	4	7	2	5	..	..	37	93	11	..	60	[illegible]
Shirtmaking.... ...	6	7	.	..	..	..	4	56	..	.	11	5
Tailoring	116	130	5	45	1	..	690	935	25	..	890	94
Woollen cloth ...	[illegible]	12	..	3	..	3	140	73	2	.	162	7
Total.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	3,644	4,[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,[illegible]	4,[illegible]

Power is not employed to any extent in the industries includ foregoing class, except in boot factories and woollen mills. I factories plant valued at £70,559 is employed, the machinery a capacity of 128 horse-power; in clothing factories the value o is £5,449; and in woollen mills the plant is valued at £24,3 capacity of the machinery being 179 horse-power.

As a wool-growing country New South Wales is apparently sp adapted for the manufacture of woollen goods, and according industry was one of the earliest organised in the colony. The end to promote the local manufacture of woollen goods, however, has so with little success. Several factories have struggled along for som but have made no headway, the largest establishments finding it to add to their business the making of slop clothing, by which they have been enabled to carry on at a profit. The machinery i of the mills is not of the best kind, and altogether the industry appointing.

following table shows the number of woollen-mills in operation, mber of employés, and the quantity of cloth manufactured during f the last ten years :—

Year.	Woollen-mills.	Hands Employed.			Quantity of Woollen Cloth manufactured.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	yards.
1886–87	8	104	78	182	324,788
1887–88	5	101	71	172	348,000
1888–89	5	117	60	177	241,000
1889–90	5	110	62	172	207,500
1890–91	4	94	61	155	310,000
1892	5	127	58	185	202,088
1893	5	144	59	203	440,500
1894	5	159	62	221	461,000
1895	5	175	67	242	613.500
1896	5	162	70	232	588,015

m these figures it will be noticed that the number of woollen-mills ration has decreased, and that the five now at work provide yment for 232 persons only. During the years from 1882 to 1884 a erably greater number of hands were employed. It will be observed he quantity of woollen cloth which is stated to have been manued bears no fixed proportion to the hands employed. The figures t down from the manufacturers' own returns, and are given for hey are worth.

employment afforded in the manufacture of boots has kept pace he growth of population, as will be perceived from the table below. proved efficiency of the machinery employed is, however, apparent increased output :—

Year.	Boot Factories.	Hands Employed.			Boots Manufactured.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	pairs.
1886–87	68	1,856	416	2,272	1,881,210
1887–88	60	1,837	436	2,273	2,278,612
1888–89	57	1,618	427	2,045	2,559,980
1889–90	59	1,955	465	2,420	2,196,815
1890–91	60	2,262	544	2,806	2,634,254
1892	66	2,230	478	2,708	2,500,000
1893	54	2,429	661	3,090	2,545,061
1894	68	2,716	704	3,420	2,611,700
1895	66	2,852	891	3,743	2,721,132
1896	82	2,659	840	3,499	2,567,169

m the above figures it will be noticed that there was an increase in mber of hands from 2,272 in 1886–87 to 3,743 in 1895, while the r of establishments was almost the same as it was nine years before. 6 the hands decreased in number to 3,499, despite the inclusion first time of a number of small factories employing four hands. appears to be a tendency for large factories to supersede small works, and drive the latter out of competition in this particular branch of manufacture. The average number of hands employed in each factory rose from 33·4 in 1886–87 to 55·2 in 1895, while in 1896, owing to the change in the system of tabulation, the average was only 42·7. The number of pairs of boots manufactured during the latter year was 2,567,169. This quantity is only slightly in excess of that shown in some of the preceding years, when a much smaller number of hands was employed. A comparison simply by pairs manufactured, however, is not altogether satisfactory. The description of boot made has very greatly improved of late years, and to this may be attributed the fact that the output per hand is not quite so large as formerly.

METAL WORKS.

The number of metal and machinery works in operation during 1896, the average number of hands employed, and the machinery and other plant used, were as follow:—

Description of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and other Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
Agricultural Implements	10	12	4	4	93	1	114	77	5,808
Boiler-making	3	2	..	1	41	..	44	151	11,309
Brass	8	12	3	3	49	..	67	26	3,739
Coppersmithing	4	7	..	..	41	..	48	7	1,500
Engineering	70	134	64	66	1,615	87	1,966	1,489	250,549
Galvanised Iron	20	25	10	2	148	9	194	25	8,510
Iron Works and Foundries	51	72	23	32	901	14	1,042	2,381	120,397
Lead	2	2	3	2	53	5	65	480	16,140
Railway Carriages*	3	9	3	4	94	6	116	58	13,500
Railway and Tramway Workshops	41	30	27	27	2,248	25	2,357	1,017	125,000
Smelting	22	61	41	67	1,796	111	2,076	1,586	164,075
Tinsmithing	23	28	3	4	136	1	172	96	6,761
Wire-working	4	5	10	4	199	3	221	24	14,933
Zinc (ornamental)	2	3	1	..	18	..	22	6	1,250
Other Metal Works	16	22	5	1	168	4	200	18	7,734
Total	279	424	197	217	7,600	266	8,704	7,440	751,329

* Including 1 establishment making railway springs.

The classification of works connected with machinery, engineering, and foundries presents many difficulties, as the trades are in many cases carried on side by side in the same establishment, and what one year is designated by a proprietor an "engineering establishment," may in the following year be returned as a "foundry," according to the importance of the work done during the year. The various descriptions of ironworks have been separately shown above, so far as it has been possible to classify them, but the figures referring to kindred industries should be read together.

e iron trade should in time form one of the great staple industries
colony. Every natural advantage possessed by the great iron and
inery-producing countries of the world—such as England and Bel-
—is also present here. Not only are iron and coal deposited in
dance, and in positions easily accessible and readily worked, but, as
ed out in the chapter on mines and minerals, the local iron ore is
dingly rich. Scarcely any progress, however, has been made in
smelting, and nearly the whole stock of pig and wrought iron
red for the local manufactories is imported. With the acceptance
local contract by the Government for the manufacture of steel
it is anticipated, however, that the industry will receive the
-needed impetus it has required. The other descriptions of metal
s, both for smelting and manufacturing, are in a more forward state.
orks for the treatment of metals in 1886–87 numbered 320, in which
engaged 7,219 persons, while in 1896 the number of works was
and the hands employed had increased to 8,704. In 1886–87 there
726 hands employed in 12 smelting works; the works now number
nd the hands employed, 2,076. There has been a large increase in
ands employed in making or repairing railway motors, carriages, and
appliances, the employés in 1886–87 numbering 1,736, and in
2,473. Of the latter, 2,357 were employed in the workshops
ected with the State railways.

BUILDING MATERIALS.

lustries directly or indirectly connected with the supply or pre-
ion of building materials afford employment to a large number of
ns, chiefly in saw-mills. The following table shows the hands
oyed during 1896:—

Description of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and other Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
	6	7	..	1	28	4	40	45	4,460
	150	180	21	36	847	211	1,295	1,242	111,721
	2	3	1	5	29	6	44	150	800
	29	38	13	13	213	28	305	250	22,236
laster, etc.	7	8	..	2	33	8	51	39	815
and monumental masonry	28	34	5	4	164	5	212	48	3,710
ng and pattern-making	3	4	1	..	11	..	16	..	1,050
	3	3	2	3	16	2	26	73	2,700
and earthenware	20	34	11	10	251	32	338	267	39,902
lls	326	447	121	268	1,832	519	3,187	5,385	265,020
rushing	10	13	3	11	172	32	231	262	16,230
ressing and polishing	2	3	..	2	18	..	23	52	3,900
rning and carving	18	21	1	3	49	4	78	100	5,935
Total	604	795	179	358	3,663	851	5,846	7,913	478,479

The number of persons employed in the various timber distric
saw-mills, etc., increased at a good rate from 1886 to 1892, but
the latter year has fallen off owing to the stagnation in the building t
The establishments in 1886–87 numbered 323, employing a total nu
of 3,284 persons, while in 1896 there were 326 mills, and the nu
of hands employed was 3,187. The capacity of plant in the latter
was 5,385 horse-power, and its value about £265,020; the quanti
timber sawn was estimated at 169,600,000 superficial feet 1 inch t
The number of saw-mills and hands employed and the output du
the past ten years were:—

Year.	Saw-mills.	Hands employed.	Quantity of Timber sawn.
	No.	No.	1,000 sup. feet.
1886–87	323	3,284	110,000
1887–88	322	3,254	125,000
1888–89	317	3,616	185,000
1889–90	325	3,578	185,021
1890–91	346	3,788	201,505
1892	288	4,573	229,696
1893	283	3,266	196,114
1894	299	3,257	173,088
1895	315	3,402	180,000
1896	326	3,187	169,600

The industry of brickmaking has declined in importance, and n
employs only two-fifths of the hands of ten years ago. This is due to
almost entire suspension of large public works, and to the lesse
activity of private builders. The following is a statement of the ha
employed and the output for the last ten years:—

Year.	Hands employed.	Bricks made.	Year.	Hands employed.	Bricks ma
	No.	thousands.		No.	thousan
1886-87	2,959	243,831	1892	1,504	115,28
1887-88	2,230	214,199	1893	1,357	105,44
1888-89	2,124	219,795	1894	1,242	92,11
1889-90	1,874	187,769	1895	1,211	98,5
1890-91	2,018	184,862	1896	1,295	102,4

LIGHT AND HEAT.

The hands employed in establishments connected with lighting and ating showed a steady increase until 1893, but in 1894 and 1895 the aller number finding employment in kerosene and gas works caused a luction in the course of the two years of 550. In 1896 the introction of labour-saving machinery was responsible for a further luction of 200 hands, the remainder of the decrease being accounted r by the exclusion from the returns of the persons employed in the stribution of gas. With this explanation, the following table showing e number of hands employed during the last ten years is given :—

Year.	Hands.	Year.	Hands.
1886–87	745	1892	1,895
1887–88	933	1893	1,976
1888–89	1,299	1894	1,683
1889–90	1,414	1895	1,424
1890–91	1,545	1896	859

The condition of employment in the various industries grouped in this ass during 1896 was as follows :—

Description of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
ke	4	7	4	5	53	1	70	93	31,200
ctric light	27	27	4	56	46	1	134	3,941	121,300
s	42	53	36	107	407	18	621	625	1,195,129
rosene	1	2	..	2	30	..	34	20	15,000
Total	74	89	44	170	536	20	859	4,679	1,362,629

The majority of the hands, as will be seen, found employment in s-works, of which there were 42 in operation during the year 1896, nploying 621 hands. The quantity of gas manufactured was 1,817 illion cubic feet, to produce which about 171,000 tons of coal were sed, giving an average of about 10,600 feet of gas for each ton of al. The quantity of gas made during the past nine years was :—

Year.	Thousand cubic feet of gas.	Year.	Thousand cubic feet of gas.
1887–88	1,361,408	1893	1,805,812
1888–89	1,379,150	1894	1,772,557
1889–90	1,434,942	1895	1,822,243
1890–91	1,512,232	1896	1,816,613
1892	1,670,944		

The rate charged to consumers varies in different localities between 3s. per 1,000 feet in Bathurst and 17s. 6d. in Deniliquin, while the prices for street lighting vary from £4 15s. per lamp per annum in Sydney to £10 in Hay. The price charged by the principal company to private consumers in Sydney and suburbs has been reduced recently to 4s. 3d. per 1,000 feet. The total consumption of gas in Sydney and suburbs during 1896 was 1,530,602,000 cubic feet, and in Melbourne and suburbs 1,236,600,000 cubic feet. From these figures it follows that the consumption per inhabitant in Sydney was 3,740 cubic feet, and in Melbourne, 2,752 cubic feet.

PRINTING TRADES.

The trades connected with printing and bookbinding are perhaps more keenly affected by general prosperity or depression than any other industry. The fluctuation in trade matters will be seen from the figures relating to employment in printing and allied works during the last nine years:—

Year.	Hands employed	Year.	Hands employed.
1887–88	3,771	1893	4,128
1888–89	4,378	1894	4,294
1889–90	4,688	1895	4,731
1890–91	4,200	1896	4,938
1892	4,494		

The following shows the subdivision of the hands for the year 1896:—

Description of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
Electrotyping and stereotyping	3	5	..	..	27	..	32	51	12,699
Paper bags, boxes, etc.	9	12	8	1	148	4	173	21	2,570
Paper	2	2	4	4	67	3	80	275	13,200
Printing and bookbinding	268	507	298	39	3,592	177	4,613	813	424,758
Printing materials	3	5	5	2	25	3	40	21	8,670
Total	285	531	315	46	3,859	187	4,938	1,181	461,897

VEHICLES AND SADDLERY.

ber of large establishments connected with the manufacture and saddlery is not great, the average number of hands n all works being only ten. The following figures refer to

on of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
ggons	139	176	15	5	1,029	5	1,230	87	27,917
e-trees, Whips, &c..	32	41	5	..	291	9	346	11	4,471
....	3	3	..	1	7	1	12	30	875
al	174	220	20	6	1,327	15	1,588	128	33,263

ly explained in the chapter treating of forestry, the timbers of are very suitable for coach and waggon building, and it is he immediate future will see them more generally used for this There is room in New South Wales for the establishment of the manufacture of wheels, which are at present largely im- the United States; and if they were conducted on American vould probably secure the whole of the Australasian trade.

SHIP AND BOAT BUILDING.

he year 1896, works connected with the building or refitting nployed 1,132 hands, by far the largest portion of whom ed in or about the port of Sydney. Nearly all the docks, Sydney, where is situated the Sutherland Dock, one of the le graving docks yet constructed. A more detailed description ties existing in the colony for the accommodation of shipping d in the chapter dealing with "Shipping":—

on of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
....	6	16	19	16	857	42	950	1,125	141,475
, and Tents	8	10	1	..	59	..	70	4	1,195
ilding and repairing	10	16	2	6	83	5	112	57	10,708
al	24	42	22	22	999	47	1,132	1,186	153,378

FURNITURE.

The furniture and allied trades now employ 300 fewer hands that they did seven years ago, the numbers being:—

Year.	Hands employed.	Year.	Hands employed.
1886–87	1,380	1892	1,046
1887–88	1,323	1893	687
1888–89	1,477	1894	794
1889–90	1,424	1895	772
1890–91	1,234	1896	1,167

The decline in the number of hands was continuous from 1888 to 1893, but the figures for 1894 showed a satisfactory increase, the labour conditions being greatly improved in 1896. Included with the 843 hands engaged in making furniture are 300 Chinese. Formerly the number of these aliens occupied in the cabinet-making industry was much larger, but the Chinese Restriction Act has effectually prevented the recruiting of hands for the shops employing them, and by putting a premium on their labour has enabled them, where they remained in the employment of the furniture factories, to obtain higher wages. Of late years there has been a marked tendency for the Chinese workmen to abandon their old employment, and combine in threes and fours for the purpose of establishing co-operative shops.

Description of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
									£
Bedding, Flock, and Upholstery ..	18	26	6	2	155	7	196	100	6,970
Furniture	60	92	9	5	723	14	843	152	9,919
Picture Frames	4	5	3	..	85	10	103	5	620
Window Blinds	3	4	1	..	19	1	25	1	250
Total	85	127	19	7	982	32	1,167	258	17,809

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES.

ides the industries already dealt with, there are numerous others adily falling under any of the categories into which the manufac- have been grouped. These have been placed together in the ing table, though there is little relation between any two there ed. None of the industries, tobacco-manufacturing and soap and -making perhaps excepted, finds employment for any large number ds; but many of them promise to develop into important interests, re is an ample field for them in the colony.

escription of Works.	Number of Establishments.	Average number of Hands employed.						Machinery and Plant.	
		Managers and Overseers.	Clerks, &c.	Engine-drivers, &c.	Workers in Factory, Mill, &c.	Carters, Messengers, &c.	Total.	Horse-power.	Value.
and wickerware, mats and ng	6	8	1	..	63	..	72	3	220
ables	2	4	..	..	9	3	16	3	575
d packing cases	8	8	1	2	81	3	95	46	3,530
and brushes	8	8	2	..	73	1	84	8	1,565
ting and corn-crushing	47	56	11	22	133	28	250	378	13,250
ls, drugs, and patent medi-	15	21	11	10	162	13	217	125	26,540
e	16	21	5	5	226	10	267	145	11,040
s	7	10	..	1	31	..	42	6	490
lating	5	9	3	1	29	1	43	23	3,190
ather	4	7	..	1	25	..	33	11	565
cluding bottles)	3	6	2	4	99	3	114	11	4,200
namental)	9	10	2	1	62	1	76	24	1,945
y (Manufacturing)	6	6	3	..	50	..	59	2	970
	2	2	..	..	9	2	13	..	100
lators	2	2	..	..	13	1	16	1	500
d fishing-lines	6	9	1	4	95	2	111	83	12,080
candles	43	61	16	7	230	56	370	770	72,270
tract of	3	3	..	3	12	4	22	53	1,291
instruments, trusses, &c.	5	8	..	..	24	1	33	3	1,670
cigars, and cigarettes	8	22	25	10	572	12	641	212	55,700
s, &c.	2	2	1	..	9	1	13	..	60
rings	2	3	..	..	14	1	18	..	50
skewers	2	2	..	..	4	..	6	12	350
dustries	16	17	23	2	190	12	244	83	6,710
Total	227	305	107	73	2,215	155	2,855	2,002	218,861

s table includes, under "Other Industries," one of each of the ing :—Bee hives, cutlery, explosives, horse and cattle medicines, lescent gas-light mantles, leather belting, photo-engraving, port- aus and bags, revolving shutters (wood), rubber goods, sewing nes, sausage skins, tobacco pipes, trunks (iron), varnishes, and hives. These have been combined in order that particulars of siness of individual firms may not be disclosed.

Tallow being one of the staple products of the country, the manu ture of soap and candles, as might be expected, is firmly established. T quantity of toilet and fancy soap made, is, however, as yet but small, in quality it is scarcely equal to that imported at lower prices. Comm soap of local make is cheaper than the imported article, and being much better, it usually commands the local market. The quantity m in 1886-87 was 155,430 cwt., which had, however, decreased to 150, cwt. in 1896. The quantity of candles manufactured was 2,199, lb. in 1886–87, and 3,734,050 lb. in 1896, and the supply, cluding imports, was 4,915,042 lb. and 6,334,916 lb. respectiv The following table shows the progress of the industry during past ten years. The quantities stated in the table are those turned by the manufacturers, and are given for what they are wor but it is believed that the information for years previous to 18 is but little to be relied on :—

Year.	Factories.	Hands employed.	Quantities manufactured.	
			Soap.	Candles.
	No.	No.	cwt.	lb.
1886-87	46	321	155,430	2,199,282
1887-88	52	367	190,060	2,442,960
1888-89	59	397	198,880	2,796,700
1889-90	30	250	164,800	2,388,440
1890-91	27	194	143,520	1,545,920
1892	21	257	110,360	3,304,130
1893	51	411	180,576	3,510,155
1894	49	467	204,623	4,785,109
1895	50	476	299,356	4,632,730
1896	43	370	150,373	3,734,050

The use of tobacco and cigarettes of local manufacture has, to very large extent, superseded that of the imported articles. The amou of cigars made in the colony is, on the other hand, very small co pared with the total quantity consumed. In 1886-7 there were 10,269 l of leaf used in the local manufacture of cigarettes, while in 1896 th quantity had increased to 169,520 lb. The weight of each description tobacco used in the colony during 1896 amounted to :—

Description.	Imported Manufactured.	Made in the Colony.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Tobacco	943,833	1,857,616	2,801,449
Cigars	179,492	16,553	196,045
Cigarettes	67,470	169,520	236,990

rge amount of imported leaf is used in the manufacture of tobacco colony, the proportion during 1896 being 693,913 lb. of imported iefly American, to 1,349,776 lb. of New South Wales leaf. The y of each kind of tobacco made in the colony, as well as the of leaf used in the manufacture, will be found in the following The quantity of leaf given does not include stalks and stems, are taken out in the process of manufacture. As ingredients han tobacco leaf are known to be used in the making of tobacco, obable that the figures showing the quantity of locally-grown leaf e too high. The proportion of leaf not used would be about cent. of the total weight.

	* Tobacco Leaf used.		Quantity manufactured.		
	New South Wales Leaf.	Imported Leaf.	Tobacco.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
	1,611,527	552,217	2,147,418	6,057	10,269
	1,463,815	610,485	2,062,380	3,624	8,296
	1,440,244	545,743	1,971,394	5,393	9,200
	1,345,620	569,420	1,892,592	4,120	18,328
1	1,403,240	639,148	1,982,991	3,412	53,985
2	1,429,136	617,608	1,964,624	5,128	76,992
3	1,284,582	597,482	1,776,560	480	105,024
4	1,312,575	540,009	1,732,496	5,117	114,971
5	1,334,924	636,287	1,833,744	11,147	126,320
5	1,349,776	693,913	1,857,616	16,553	169,520

* Stalks and fibre of leaf removed.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYÉS.

Government of the colony is a very considerable factor in the market, as, according to the Blue Book for 1894, it had then in no less than 31,741 persons, including those temporarily engaged, cluding all persons who were merely entitled to receive fees from blic for services rendered. The police were included in these , but only such of the defence forces as were in receipt of regular . Of the number given, less than 18,000 could be called civil s in the sense in which the term is ordinarily employed. A nt of the Service as it now stands will not be available until the the "Public Service List."

The following table gives the distribution amongst the Departments in 1894:—

Department.	Number.
Chief Secretary	3,246
Railways and Tramways	10,716
Public Instruction	4,854
Public Works	4,902
Postmaster-General (Post and Telegraphs)	3,471
Colonial Treasurer	1,606
Justice and Attorney-General	1,365
Lands	779
Mines and Agriculture	650
Other Departments (Executive, Legislature, and Mint)	151
Total	31,741

The figures given above included a large number of persons who were only partially employed during the year, and were in receipt of very small salaries.

STEAM POWER.

The power used in the colony for manufacturing, transporting, and other purposes is equivalent to 162,462 horse-power, or 126 horse-power for every thousand persons, a rate comparing not unfavourably with other countries, as will be seen from the subjoined statement, computed from Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics*:—

Country.	Horse-power employed.	Per 1,000 of the population.
	thousands.	
United Kingdom	9,200	250
France	4,520	110
Germany	6,200	130
Russia	2,240	30
Austria	2,150	50
Italy	830	30
Spain	740	40
Belgium	810	140
Holland	340	80
United States	14,400	240
New South Wales	162	126

Of the total power employed in the colony, by far the greater part is derived from steam. The services for which the power is used shown in the following table, from which it will be seen that land er transport absorb 89,614 horse-power, or over 55 per cent. of the l horse-power employed. The information with regard to transport manufactories is fairly exact, but is only approximate for the other stries:—

Industries employing power.	Horse-power.
Transport, Land	68,500
Transport, Water	21,114
Manufactories, etc.	33,253
Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairy Farming	18,220
Mining	9,875
Miscellaneous	11,500
Total	162,462

ew South Wales has few running streams so placed as to be avail- for the purpose of driving machinery for manufacturing purposes. larger portion of the power used is, therefore, derived from steam; ome instances, chiefly in the metropolis, gas is employed; the other er used is in a few cases hydraulic or electric, while the balance prises machinery worked by horses and cattle. In the table given w the number of establishments using machinery is shown, with the regate horse-power. By the term "full capacity" is understood the er capable of being generated by the boilers or machinery, and by term "power actually used" the power required to work the pro- ses:—

Classification Industries.	Number of Establishments using Machinery.	Full Capacity of Machinery.			Power actually used.		
		Steam.	Gas.	Other Power	Steam.	Gas.	Other Power.
		h.p.	h.p.	h.p.	h.p.	h.p.	h.p.
ating raw material, the product of pastoral pursuits	197	3,043	8	22	2,350	6	18
nected with food and drink, or the preparation thereof	683	15,989	269	78	12,765	185	65
thing and textile fabrics	51	426	203	14	285	174	14
lding materials	558	7,665	111	137	6,292	105	93
tal works, machinery, etc.	211	7,319	57	64	5,467	41	55
p-building, repairing, etc	12	1,062	4	120	627	4	65
niture, bedding, etc.	27	144	114	...	119	76	...
ks, paper, printing, etc.	149	590	588	3	522	363	3
hicles, saddlery, and harness	14	124	4	...	105	3	...
ht, fuel, and heat	61	2,756	3	1,920	1,708	2	269
er works	155	1,890	112	...	1,394	78	...
Total	2,118	41,008	1,473	2,358	31,634	1,037	582

Very few manufactories use different kinds of motive powe same time, their number not exceeding twenty.

Returns regarding the employment of machinery in manufactori been obtained for some few years, and the aggregate figures for ea are given below. The figures are given for what they are worth years previous to 1892 it cannot be claimed that they are mo approximate :—

Year.	Horse-power of Machinery employed in Manufactories.
1886-87	25,192
1887-88	26,152
1888-89	24,990
1889-90	25,790
1890-91	24,662
1892	28,061
1893	27,162
1894	29,197
1895	31,802
1896	33,253

The importance of the manufacturing industry to the coal p may be gathered from the fact that out of a total of 3,780,9 raised and 1,589,263 tons required for local consumption in 755,000 tons were used for manufacturing purposes, in addi 158,000 tons consumed by gas-works. The total value of fuel co was £425,161, of which £396,375 was the value of coal; the v firewood, gas, or other fuel was, therefore, not considerable.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION.

The value of the product of the manufacturing industry is no tained every year, as the labour and expense involved in obtaini information are very considerable. The last year for which th full particulars is 1892. It was then ascertained that the total of articles produced, or, where manufacturing in its restricted s not carried on, the increased value to materials from treatme £16,098,630; and the value of materials used, including fuel, £8,2 the difference, £7,798,790, representing the production. This la may again be divided into £4,458,836, the amount of wage and £3,339,954, the earnings of capital. What is the income, p so called, of those who carry on the industries, apart from re interest on borrowed capital and trade losses, was not ascertaine attempt to arrive at this sum was made, but the results deduc the information supplied cannot be considered accurate, and ar fore not given. In the following statement the various elements are shown for each class of industry, as well as the amount o embarked. By fixed capital is understood the value of lands ildings, machinery, and plant:—

Class of Industry.	Establishments.	Fixed Capital.	Total Wages paid.	Value of Materials used.	Value of Fuel used.	Value of Articles produced, or increased value to materials from treatment.
	No.	£	£	£	£	£
erial, the product of Pas- Pursuits.	140	506,908	151,134	350,500	15,410	729,908
d with Food and Drink or reparation thereof.	511	4,100,034	580,204	3,123,697	83,546	4,899,007
and Textile Fabrics	259	904,888	465,291	865,443	1,772	1,550,415
Materials	500	2,798,080	742,736	918,193	94,978	2,081,530
rks, Machinery, etc.	267	3,326,240	1,227,439	1,273,183	193,167	3,274,116
ding, Repairing, etc.	32	759,044	119,079	88,462	1,965	262,475
. Bedding, etc.	70	242,911	88,112	164,211	747	298,684
aper, Printing, Engraving,	160	1,549,332	482,910	273,049	6,358	1,089,319
Harness, and Saddlery....	186	449,766	227,335	210,924	3,188	545,598
el, and Heat	57	1,825,320	208,730	139,274	14,073	597,149
eous	137	1,077,456	165,866	467,146	9,957	820,428
Total..................	2,319	17,538,979	4,458,836	7,874,682	425,161	16,098,629

value of wool washed has been omitted from the total under the g of value of articles produced and increased value to materials l; so also has the value of repairs effected in Government work- and docks.

not possible to give like information to what is shown in the ing table in regard to the year 1896; but the total value of pro- n, apart from the materials used, may be set down at £7,243,700, this amount wages represent £3,961,300.

value of the production of the manufacturing industry has been ted for 1880 and some succeeding years, and is shown in the fol- table. The figures are practically on the same basis as those for the details of which are given above.

Year.	Value of Production.
	£
1880	4,437,700
1885	6,296,000
1890	7,615,000
1892	7,798,786
1894	6,726,750
1895	6,965,100
1896	7,243,700

employment and production alluded to in the preceding pages o establishments classed for statistical purposes as manufactories s the 49,055 hands accounted for in the tables, there are ot

actually engaged in manufacturing processes who are not inc
These comprise persons working in their own homes or in est
ments too small to be properly designated as manufactories. I
foregoing pages a manufactory has been considered to be an est
ment using steam, or, when steam is not used, where four or more
are usually employed. It is estimated that there are 5,285 mal
10,960 females who are thus excluded from classification. The
comprise tailors and shoemakers working in their own homes
companies of less than four; and wheelwrights, blacksmiths, saddle
other workers of the same type, whose establishments are prim
repairing shops, such as are found in every village of the colony.
females are mainly seamstresses, milliners, and dressmakers; and
their numbers it will be seen that the women working outsid
factories are a far more important body than the hands emp
within those establishments.

The total number of persons engaged in the various manufac
processes may, therefore, be set down at 65,300, and the value of
production at £7,955,000, which includes £711,300, the value
work of the hands not included in the returns of factories. The
the figures which will be quoted in the remaining tables of this ch

IMPORTATION OF LABOUR.

Since the cessation of assisted immigration by the State the
been very little labour imported by the capitalists and manufac
of the colony; in fact, almost all the artisans and labourers wh
arrived here within the last few years have been those who ha
the other Australasian colonies in the hope of improving their po
in New South Wales. The question of the importation of labou
not been largely dealt with by legislation in this colony. The
enactment on the subject is the Agreements Validating Act, 39
No. 29, which provides that agreements made in any place beyo
colony for a period of service not exceeding two years shall
binding and effectual as though they had been entered into withi
colony, provided that the contract or agreement shall have been
and subscribed to in the presence of some officer duly authorised i
behalf by the Governor and Executive Council of New South Wal

WAGES.

In New South Wales, as in most other Australian colonie
rapid settlement of the country created a demand for labour
kinds which could not be satisfied except by a constant accessi
labourers from other countries. This demand, which was conti
for many years, resulted in the establishment of a rate of wages
higher than is ordinarily found in older lands. During 1892, ho

ɜssion in trade there came a partial reduction in wages, and the two following years this became general. The the average weekly wages in various trades during 1896. ·ates of representative trades from the year 1821 to the will be found in the preceding chapter of this work the industrial history of the colony. In the numerous which work is done and paid for as piecework, weekly ı have been calculated on the assumption that a week is -eight hours' work, and the rates quoted show, therefore, ' wages which would be earned by workmen doing a full

ı.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
ɴɢᴀɢᴇᴅ ɪɴ ᴛʀᴇᴀᴛɪɴɢ Rᴀᴡ Mᴀᴛᴇʀɪᴀʟ, ᴛʜᴇ Pʀᴏᴅᴜᴄᴛ ᴏғ Pᴀsᴛᴏʀᴀʟ Pᴜʀsᴜɪᴛs.					
			Boiling-down.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
....	2 10 0	2 0 0	Tallowmen	2 0 0	1 18 0
....	2 5 0	1 5 0	Oilmakers	2 0 0	1 16 0
....	2 0 0	1 16 0			
			Tanneries.		
....	4 10 0	2 10 0	Tanners	2 5 0	1 10 0
....	2 5 0	1 16 0	Rollermen	2 10 0	1 10 0
....	2 10 0	2 0 0	Yardmen	2 2 0	1 10 0
....	2 8 0	1 10 0	Limemen	2 0 0	1 10 0
....	3 0 0	1 10 0			
			*Wool-washing.**		
....	5 0 0	2 5 0	Wooldriers	2 2 0	1 10 0
....	2 8 0	2 0 0	Woolsoakers	2 0 0	1 10 0
....	2 8 0	2 0 0	Skinmen	1 16 0	1 16 0
....	2 8 0	1 16 0	Bearers and Drivers	1 16 0	1 13 0
....	2 10 0	2 0 0			

instance this class of work is done by piecework, and the weekly earnings given .nts earned on those lines.

ꜱᴇᴅ ɪɴ Tʀᴀᴅᴇs ᴄᴏɴɴᴇᴄᴛᴇᴅ ᴡɪᴛʜ Fᴏᴏᴅ ᴀɴᴅ Dʀɪɴᴋ, ᴏʀ ᴛʜᴇ ᴘʀᴇᴘᴀʀᴀᴛɪᴏɴ ᴛʜᴇʀᴇᴏғ.					
			Aërated Waters.		
....	5 0 0	2 10 0	Washers	1 15 0	0 10 0
....	4 0 0	2 0 0	Wirers	1 15 0	0 15 0
....	2 0 0	1 10 0	Corkers	1 15 0	0 15 0
....	2 0 0	1 0 0	Labellers	0 15 0	0 8 0
			Bread, Biscuits, and Confectionery.		
....	4 0 0	2 0 0	Bakers	3 0 0	1 5 0
ıctory			Forewomen	1 10 0	0 16 0
			Biscuit-bakers	3 0 0	1 10 0
....	3 0 0	1 10 0	Boys	1 0 0	0 8 0
....	0 15 0	0 8 0	Girls	0 10 0	0 8 0
			Breweries.		
....	4 0 0	2 12 6	Bottlers	2 12 6	0 10 0
....	2 10 0	1 15 0	Coopers	3 0 0	2 0 0
....	2 10 0	2 0 0	Draymen	2 10 0	2 0 0
....	2 10 0	2 0 0	Boys	0 18 0	0 7 6
....	2 2 0	1 10 0			

rers at large breweries command salaries ranging from £250 to £800 per annum.

II.—Persons engaged in Trades connected with Food and Drink, or the preparat thereof—*continued.*

Butter Factories and Creameries.

Occupation.	Maximum. £ s. d.	Minimum. £ s. d.	Occupation.	Maximum. £ s. d.	£
Experts at milk-testing	4 0 0	2 5 0	Assistants	2 0 0	1
Butter-makers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Boys	1 0 0	0

Condiments.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Foremen	4 0 0	2 10 0	Labellers and packers	1 0 0	0
Mill hands and journeymen	3 0 0	1 15 0	Grinders (boys)	1 0 0	0
Storemen	3 0 0	1 10 0	Girls	0 10 0	0
Forewomen	1 5 0	1 0 0			

Flour and Maize Meal.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Millers	3 10 0	3 0 0	Smutters and oilmen	2 0 0	1
Samplers	2 5 0	2 0 0	Packers	1 16 0	1
Sleevemen	2 2 6	2 0 0	Purifier men	1 16 0	1
Stackers	2 0 0	1 16 0			

NOTE.—In the smaller mills the proprietor usually acts as foreman; in large mills the of the foreman miller is a matter of arrangement with the owners, and no standard rate given.

Ice and Refrigerating.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Foremen	3 10 0	2 0 0	Journeymen	2 5 0	2

Jam and Fruit Canning.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Foremen	4 0 0	2 10 0	Packers	1 16 0	0
Jam-boilers	2 5 0	1 10 0	Case-makers	2 0 0	1
Firemen	1 15 0	1 10 0	Boys	0 17 0	0
Solderers and tinmakers	2 10 0	2 0 0	Women and girls	1 5 0	0
Labellers	0 15 0	0 8 0			

Meat Preserving.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Extract-makers	3 12 0	2 5 6	Butchers	3 10 0	2
Tallow-makers	2 18 4	2 2 0	Tinsmiths and solderers	3 10 0	2
Salters	3 0 0	2 2 0	Boys	1 0 0	0
Smallgoods man	2 14 0	2 2 0			

NOTE.—Most of the men employed in meat-preserving works are paid by results, and the of wages quoted represent the amounts usually earned per week. The week, in some ca reckoned as seven days.

Sugar Mills.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Managers Cane inspectors Chemists for sugar analysis	Salaried officers.		Foremen labourers	2 10 0	1
			Labourers	1 15 0	1
			Steamer hands	3 0 0	1
Engineers and fitters	4 10 0	3 0 0	Cane-throwers	2 10 0	2
Foremen mechanics	4 0 0	3 12 0	Cane-cutters	3 10 0	2
Mechanics	4 0 0	2 8 0	Bag-sewers	1 15 0	1
Pan boilers	3 5 0	3 5 0			

NOTE.—The rates of wages quoted are those paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co Limited. All employés on daily wages are provided with board and lodging, the estimated of which is included in the wages here quoted. The regular hours of working are ten per day.

Vinegar Works.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	
Manufacturers	3 0 0	3 0 0	Bottlers and labellers	1 0 0	0

Yeast Works.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Makers	2 10 0	2 0 0

III.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILE FABRICS.

Boots and Shoes.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
n	3 10 0	2 10 0	Fitters	1 7 6	0 10 0
e operators	2 10 0	1 10 0	Tiers-off	0 10 0	0 4 0
s	2 5 0	1 10 0	Finishers	2 10 0	1 5 0
nt clickers	1 5 0	0 12 0	Packers	2 5 0	1 10 0
stuff cutters and press- n	2 10 0	1 5 0	Repairers	2 0 0	1 5 0
	2 10 0	1 0 0	Female machinists	1 5 0	0 12 6
rs	2 0 0	1 0 0	,, (apprentices)	0 15 0	0 4 0
			Boys	0 15 0	0 4 0

Clothing.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	3 0 0	2 10 0	Machinists	1 10 0	0 10 0
n	6 0 0	3 0 0	Trimmers	3 0 0	2 0 0
nds, Males	3 10 0	1 10 0	Button-hole workers	2 0 0	1 0 0
Females	1 15 0	0 15 0	Folding hands	3 0 0	1 5 0
rs hands, Males	3 0 0	2 10 0	Pressers	3 0 0	2 0 0
,, Females	1 5 0	0 10 0	Examiners	3 0 0	2 10 0
nds, Males	2 8 0	2 0 0	Boys	1 0 0	0 5 0
Females	1 2 6	0 10 0			

—Most persons engaged in the tailoring trade are paid by piecework, and a considerable tion of the work, both for clothing factories and shops, is done by the employés at their own In such cases it is often difficult to obtain a reliable statement of actual weekly earnings, rates quoted are, therefore, those paid per week to employés constantly at work.

Furriers.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
rs	2 12 0	2 0 0	Females	1 0 0	0 10 6
men	1 5 0	1 0 0	Boys	0 7 6	0 7 6

Hats and Caps.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
ymen	3 0 0	2 0 0	Girls	1 10 0	0 10 0
ers	1 5 0	0 10 0			

—The wages quoted must be taken as approximate, the number of people employed at this y being small and the work chiefly piecework.

Oilskin and Waterproof Clothing.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
n	3 0 0	2 0 0	Oilers	2 0 0	1 10 0
s	2 10 0	1 15 0	Machinists	1 2 6	0 15 0

—The proprietors of the few establishments devoted to this industry generally act as n, and in some cases as cutters.

Shirtmaking.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
utters	4 0 0	3 0 0	Machinists	1 0 0	0 15 0
men	1 10 0	1 5 0	Button-hole workers	0 18 0	0 15 0
	1 0 0	0 10 0	Finishers	0 12 0	0 10 0
rs	1 0 0	0 10 0			

—Shirt-making is generally carried on by the employés at their own homes, and as payment by results the weekly earnings are in some cases below the figures quoted.

Dressmaking, Underclothing, and Millinery.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
men (dressmakers)	6 10 0	1 10 0	Machinists	1 10 0	0 14 0
	2 10 0	2 0 0	Forewomen (milliners)	3 0 0	2 0 0
sses	1 15 0	0 10 0	Milliners	1 10 0	0 15 0
hands	1 10 0	0 14 0	Improvers	0 12 6	0 7 6
l dressmakers	1 10 0	0 14 0	Saleswomen	3 10 0	0 15 0

—The rates quoted are those paid by large establishments. The wages paid or amounts per week in smaller establishments vary considerably, as payment is by piecework.

III.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILE FABRICS—continued.

Woollen Mills.

Occupation.	Maximum. £ s. d.	Minimum. £ s. d.	Occupation.	Maximum. £ s. d.	Minimum. £ s.
Foremen	5 0 0	5 0 0	Warpers	1 15 0	1 5
Carders	3 0 0	2 0 0	Wool-scourers	1 15 0	1 15
Loom-tuners	3 0 0	1 10 0	Pressmen	2 0 0	1 10
Wool-sorters	2 5 0	2 5 0	Weavers (females)	1 10 0	0 17
Finishers	2 5 0	1 10 0	Feeders	0 10 0	0 10
Dyers	3 0 0	1 0 0	Burlers and pickers	1 0 0	0 17
Spinners	2 10 0	2 0 0	Boys and girls	0 15 0	0 6
Millmen	2 0 0	2 0 0			

IV.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN CONNECTION WITH BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC.

Asphalting and Tar-paving.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Asphalters	2 2 0	1 16 0	Boys	1 0 0	0 7
Woodblockers	3 0 0	1 10 0			

Brickworks.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Foremen	4 0 0	2 8 0	Pressers	2 10 0	1 15
Clay-diggers and pitmen	2 8 0	1 16 0	Burners	3 10 0	2 5
Panmen and grinders	2 10 0	1 15 0	Loaders-out	2 10 0	2 0
Setters	2 8 0	2 0 0	Stackers	2 8 0	2 0
Brickmakers and moulders	2 15 0	2 0 0	Carters	2 5 0	1 10

Cement.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Millers	3 10 0	3 0 0	Kiln-fillers	2 5 0	2 0
Burners	2 12 0	2 0 0	Labourers	2 0 0	1 10

NOTE.—Most of the work is done by contract, the men being paid at per ton of cement ground The figures quoted represent the average weekly earnings.

Joinery, Wood-turning, and Carving.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Foremen	3 12 0	3 0 0	Carvers	3 0 0	1 10
Joiners	2 14 0	2 8 0	Apprentices	1 5 0	0 7
Turners	2 14 0	1 10 0			

Lime Works.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Foremen	3 0 0	3 0 0	Lime-drawers	2 8 0	2 0
Quarrymen	2 5 0	2 2 0	Burners	2 8 0	2 0
Crane-drivers	2 0 0	1 16 0			

Modelling, Patterns, and Cement and Plaster Decorations

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Modellers	3 0 0	3 0 0	Casters	1 0 0	0 10
Pressers	2 8 0	1 10 0			

NOTE.—The works, which are small, are generally carried on by the proprietor, assisted by a few youths as pressers and casters.

Monumental and Marble Masons.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Foremen	3 10 0	2 10 0	Bluestone masons	2 10 0	2 0
Sculptors	3 0 0	2 10 0	Polishers	2 8 0	1 10
Letter cutters and carvers	3 0 0	2 8 0	Fixers	2 8 0	1 5
Marble masons	2 10 0	2 0 0			

Paint and Varnish.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Chemists	6 0 0	6 0 0	Manufacturers	5 16 0	2 10
Foremen	2 10 0	2 10 0	Labourers	1 16 0	1 10

Potteries.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Foremen	3 10 0	2 8 0	Burners	2 15 0	2 0
Throwers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Clay-getters	2 5 0	1 15
Pipe-makers	3 0 0	2 0 0			

·PERSONS ENGAGED IN CONNECTION WITH BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC.—*continued.*

Saw Mills.

upation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	3 10 0	2 7 6	Measurers	2 10 0	2 0 0
ers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Tailers-out	1 10 0	0 15 0
	3 0 0	2 0 0	Labourers	1 16 0	1 10 0
sistants	2 10 0	1 0 0	Draymen	2 10 0	1 10 0
	2 10 0	1 15 0			

Quarrying and Stone Crushing.

	3 0 0	3 0 0	Stone-breakers	2 2 0	1 10 0
	2 5 0	2 2 0	Stone-feeders	2 0 0	1 16 0
	2 10 0	2 0 0			

I (*a*), II (*a*), III (*a*), AND IV (*a*).—MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, artisans and others employed in the various works given under Classes I, II, III, and IV, and who are not identified with any one dustry, are included under this heading.

ers	3 12 0	2 0 0	Tinsmiths	2 15 0	2 0 0
	2 10 0	2 0 0	Painters	2 15 0	1 15 0
	3 0 0	2 10 0	Slaters	2 16 0	2 8 0
	3 0 0	2 10 0	Plumbers	3 0 0	2 8 0
rpenters	3 12 0	3 0 0	Blacksmiths	3 5 0	2 0 0
nd joiners	3 0 0	2 0 0	Brassfinishers	3 0 0	2 0 0
	2 14 0	2 8 0	Watchmen	2 0 0	1 10 0
icklayers	3 12 0	3 0 0	Time-keepers	2 2 0	1 10 0
	3 0 0	2 14 0	Foremen labourers	2 14 0	2 8 0
sons	3 12 0	3 0 0	General labourers	2 2 0	1 16 0
	3 0 0	2 14 0	Carters	2 10 0	1 10 0
	2 14 0	2 8 0	Apprentices	1 16 0	0 5 0
	2 14 0	2 8 0	Boys	0 10 0	0 7 0
	2 14 0	2 5 0			

In all Government contracts a minimum rate of wages to be paid is set out, forty-eight considered as a week's work. On it being proved that any contractor, or, in the event of of the work being sub-let, any sub-contractor, is paying a lower rate than has been set ister has the power to cancel the contract. The minimum rates to be paid are decided the locality and other circumstances affecting each particular contract. No standard eral use have been fixed.

V.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

	5 0 0	3 0 0	Wheelwrights	3 0 0	2 0 0
nd draftsmen	3 0 0	2 10 0	Bolt-screwers	2 8 0	2 6 0
	3 0 0	2 5 0	Stove-fitters	2 15 0	2 2 0
fitters	3 0 0	2 12 0	Galvanisers	3 5 0	2 5 0
	3 5 0	2 0 0	Wire-workers	2 10 0	2 8 0
	2 0 0	1 10 0	Cutlers and grinders	2 10 0	1 10 0
rs	3 5 0	2 0 0	Japanners	2 15 0	2 10 0
	2 8 0	1 18 0	Engine-drivers	2 10 0	1 16 0
	2 8 0	1 15 0	Firemen	2 10 0	1 16 0
ters	3 0 0	2 14 0	Bricklayers	3 0 0	2 14 0
rs	2 16 0	2 14 0	Carpenters	2 14 0	2 8 0
	2 16 0	2 14 0	Labourers	2 2 0	1 16 0
hs	3 5 0	2 10 0	Carters	2 5 0	1 10 0
ers	3 5 0	2 0 0	Storekeepers	3 8 0	1 13 0
rs	3 5 0	2 0 0	Time-keepers	2 6 0	1 13 0
	2 17 0	1 10 0	Apprentices	1 10 0	0 5 0
nd gasfitters	2 14 0	2 8 0	Boys	0 10 0	0 5 0
	2 15 0	1 15 0			

VI.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN SHIP-BUILDING, REPAIRING, ETC.

Ship-building, Docks, etc.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Mi
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£
Foremen	7 0 0	3 0 0	Ship-joiners	2 0 0	2
Shipwrights	3 12 0	2 8 0	Marine opticians	3 0 0	2
Boiler-makers and riveters	3 4 0	2 14 0	Ship's compasses, sextants, and barometer repairers	3 0 0	2
Pattern-makers	2 18 0	2 5 0			
Bolt-screwers	2 8 0	2 5 0			

Sails and Tarpaulins.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Mi
Foremen	3 0 0	2 10 0	Forewomen	1 10 0	1
Journeymen	2 16 0	1 10 0	Machinists (females)	1 0 0	0 1
Machinists (males)	2 10 0	1 10 0	Apprentices (males)	0 15 0	0

VII.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FURNITURE, BEDDING, ETC.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Mi
Foremen	5 0 0	3 5 0	Gilders	2 12 0	1
Machinists	2 16 0	2 10 0	Fitters	1 15 0	1
Cabinet-makers	2 17 0	1 15 0	Girls	1 0 0	0 1
Polishers	2 11 0	2 0 0	Venetian-blind makers	2 10 0	2
Chair-makers	2 17 0	2 5 0	Venetian-blind painters	2 0 0	1 1
Chair-fitters	2 12 0	2 0 0	Billiard-table makers	2 14 0	2 1
Wood-carvers	3 0 0	2 10 0	Ivory turners	3 0 0	3
Wood-turners	3 0 0	2 5 0	Packers	2 15 0	2
Upholsterers	2 17 0	2 0 0	Improvers	2 0 0	0 1
Upholsteresses	1 5 0	0 15 0	Storemen	2 5 0	1 1
Seamstresses	1 5 0	0 15 0	Undertaker's hands	2 10 0	2
Hair and flock hands	2 2 0	1 15 0	Labourers	2 0 0	1 1
Mattress-makers	2 15 0	2 0 0	Apprentices	1 12 0	0 1
Mount-cutters	3 0 0	1 16 0	Boys	1 10 0	0
Frame-makers	2 12 0	1 7 6			

NOTE.—The number of Chinese engaged in the manufacture of furniture in Sydney is not so l as formerly, the introduction of modern machinery enabling manufacturers to successfully com with them. No reliable information is obtainable as to the wages paid in the Chinese shops, of the work done there being piecework.

VIII.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN PRINTING LITHOGRAPHING ESTABLISHMENTS, ETC.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Mi
Readers	4 0 0	2 15 0	Engravers	5 0 0	2
Readers' assistants	2 0 0	0 15 0	Lithographers—		
Compositors, jobbing offices—			Foremen	5 0 0	3 1
Foremen	4 0 0	3 0 0	Journeymen	3 10 0	2 12
Journeymen	3 10 0	2 12 0	Improvers	1 10 0	1
Apprentices	1 5 0	0 8 0	Apprentices	1 5 0	0
Compositors, newspaper offices—			Artists and illuminators	5 0 0	3
			,, apprentices	1 5 0	0 7
Foremen	7 0 0	4 10 0	Rulers	3 10 0	2 1
Journeymen—			Folders	1 7 6	0
Morning papers	0 1 1	per 1,000 ens.	General hands	1 16 0	1 5
Evening papers	0 1 0		Bookbinders—		
Linotype operators	0 0 3		Foremen	4 10 0	3
Letter-press machinists—			Rulers	4 0 0	2 1
Foremen	6 0 0	4 0 0	Binders	3 5 0	2 1
Journeymen	4 0 0	2 12 0	Finishers	4 0 0	2 1
Improvers	2 6 0	1 10 0	Booksewers (females)	1 10 0	0 1
Apprentices	1 5 0	0 7 6	Bookfolders ,,	1 7 6	0
Stereotypers—			Apprentices	1 5 0	0
Foremen	5 0 0	3 10 0	Rubber stamp makers	2 2 0	2
Journeymen	2 5 0	2 0 0	Paper boxes and bags—		
Electrotypers—			Foremen	2 0 0	1 1
Foremen	3 10 0	3 0 0	Forewomen	1 10 0	1
Journeymen	3 0 0	2 12 0	Boys and girls	1 0 0	0

—Persons engaged in the Manufacture of Vehicles, Saddlery, and Harness.

Coach-building.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	3 10 0	2 10 0	Trimmers	3 5 0	2 0 0
rs	3 5 0	2 2 0	Painters	3 0 0	2 0 0
kers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Labourers	1 16 0	1 0 0
ights	3 0 0	2 0 0	Improvers	1 16 0	0 15 0
iths	3 0 0	2 0 0	Apprentices	1 10 0	0 5 0
	1 10 0	1 0 0	Boys	0 15 0	0 5 0
	2 5 0	1 10 0			

Saddlery and Harness.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	4 0 0	3 0 0	Bagmakers	2 14 0	2 8 0
akers	3 0 0	2 0 0	General hands	2 10 0	1 10 0
makers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Female hands	1 10 0	1 0 0
kers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Apprentices	1 0 0	0 5 0
nds	2 5 0	1 10 0			

X.—Persons engaged in the Production of Light, Fuel, Heat, etc.

Electric Light Works.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	3 10 0	3 0 0	Electricians	3 10 0	2 0 0
s	4 10 0	2 10 0	Installing workmen	2 10 0	2 0 0

Gas Works.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	6 0 0	3 10 0	Main-layers	2 15 0	1 19 0
nd Firemen	2 18 0	2 7 0	Service-layers	2 15 0	1 19 0
	3 6 0	2 9 6	Lamplighters	1 12 0	1 12 0
	2 15 0	2 15 0			

Fuel.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	2 10 0	2 0 0	Carters	2 0 0	1 10 0
and yardsmen	2 0 0	1 10 0	Boys	1 0 0	0 8 0

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades.

Basket-making.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
akers	1 10 0	1 5 0	Apprentices and boys	0 10 0	0 5 0

Box and Packing Case Making.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	3 0 0	3 0 0	Engine-drivers	2 8 0	2 8 0
rs	2 8 0	2 5 0	Carters	2 0 0	2 0 0
	2 10 0	2 5 0	Boys	1 10 0	0 6 0
ts	2 8 0	2 8 0			

Broom-making.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
akers	1 15 0	1 5 0	Sorters	0 15 0	0 8 0
wers	1 10 0	1 0 0			

Brush-making.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
ds	2 0 0	1 5 0	Boys	0 15 0	0 6 0
ands	1 0 0	0 10 0			

Dye Works.

Occupation.	Maximum	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	2 10 0	1 15 0	Pressers (women)	1 6 0	1 2 0
(men)	2 2 0	2 0 0	Feather curlers	1 6 0	1 4

XI.—PERSONS ENGAGED IN MISCELLANEOUS TRADES—*continued.*

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.
			Explosives.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Foremen	3 0 0	2 10 0	Cartridge fillers	2 5 0
Mixers	2 8 0	2 5 0		
			Glass Bottle Works.	
Foremen	4 0 0	3 0 0	Glass-cutters	3 0 0
Glass-blowers	3 12 0	2 8 0	Boys	1 2 0
			Ornamental Glass Works.	
Artists	3 10 0	3 0 0	Glaziers	2 10 0
Cutters	3 0 0	2 5 0	Polishers	2 8 0
Bevellers	3 0 0	2 5 0	Assistants	1 5 0
			Hairdressing and Wig Making.	
Hairdressers	3 0 0	2 0 0	Apprentices	1 10 0
Wigmakers	3 10 0	2 10 0		
			Mat-making.	
Foremen	2 0 0	2 0 0	Mat-makers (boys)	0 12 0
Mat-makers (adults)	1 10 0	1 10 0		
			Photography.	
Operators	4 0 0	2 0 0	Finishers (girls)	1 0 0
Printers	3 0 0	1 5 0	Retouchers (males)	2 10 0
Assistants	1 10 0	0 5 0	do (females)	1 5 0
			Rope Works.	
Foremen	4 10 0	4 0 0	Handspinners	1 16 0
Rope-layers	2 8 0	2 2 0	Machinists	1 10 0
Reelers	2 0 0	2 0 0	Jenny boys	0 15 0
			Rubber Works.	
Journeymen	3 0 0	2 0 0	Boys	1 0 0
			Soap and Candle Works.	
Foremen	4 10 0	2 5 0	Coopers	2 14 0
Stearine and Candle Makers	3 0 0	1 5 0	General hands	2 0 0
Moulders	1 7 0	0 12 0	Packers	1 7 0
Soap-boilers	4 0 0	2 5 0	Boys and Girls	1 5 0
Soap-boilers' assistants	2 2 0	1 10 0		
			Tobacco Works.	
Foremen	5 0 0	3 0 0	Plug-coverers	3 0 0
Journeymen	2 15 0	1 10 0	Stemmers and strippers	1 10 0
General hands (males)	2 10 0	1 10 0	Packers	1 15 0
,, (females)	1 17 6	0 15 0	Box makers	3 0 0
Twisters	3 0 0	1 10 0	Machinists	2 12 0
Pressers	2 10 0	0 15 0		
			Umbrella-making.	
Males	2 10 0	1 0 0	Females	1 10 0
			Watch-making, Jewellery, etc.	
Foremen Watchmakers	5 0 0	2 10 0	Opticians (males)	2 15 0
,, Jewellers	5 0 0	1 10 0	,, (females)	2 2 0
Stone-setters	5 0 0	4 0 0	Polishers	2 0 0
Instrument-makers	4 10 0	3 12 0		

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades—*continued.*

Fire Brigade Employés (City).

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
....	3 10 0	3 0 0	Firemen	3 0 0	2 5 0
·s	3 8 0	3 8 0	Probationers	2 0 0	2 0 0
t Officer	3 3 6	3 3 6			

XI (*a*).—Persons engaged in Mining.

Coal-mines.

	Northern Mines.			Southern Mines.	
	per ton.			per ton.	
....	0 2 11	0 2 11	Miners	0 2 0	0 1 10
	per day.			per day.	
ı (underground)	0 13 0	0 10 0	Overmen (underground)....	0 13 0	0 10 0
overmen	0 9 6	0 8 0	Deputy overmen	0 9 6	0 8 0
ı	0 9 0	0 8 0	Shiftmen	0 8 0	0 7 0
s	0 8 0	0 6 6	Onsetters	0 8 0	0 7 0
en	0 7 0	0 6 6	Banksmen	0 7 6	0 7 0
en.....................	0 7 6	0 3 0	Screenmen	0 7 6	0 6 6
cs	0 10 0	0 8 6	Mechanics	0 10 6	0 8 6
rs	0 12 0	0 9 0	Engineers	0 9 0	0 8 0
lrivers..............	0 9 0	0 9 0	Engine-drivers	0 9 0	0 8 0
ıen and firemen	0 7 6	0 6 0	Enginemen and firemen	0 8 0	0 6 0
vermen	0 9 0	0 7 0	Screen-overmen	....	....
ı (overground)	0 9 0	0 8 6	Overmen (overground)	....	....
ive-engine stokers ..	0 7 6	0 6 6	Locomotive-engine stokers...	0 7 0	0 6 0
ers	0 8 6	0 6 6	Platelayers	0 9 0	0 7 0
men	0 8 0	0 7 6	Furnacemen	0 7 0	0 6 0
-makers	0 8 0	0 8 0	Harness-makers............	0 8 6	0 8 0
....	0 3 0	0 1 9	Packers....................	0 6 6	0 6 6
s	0 7 6	0 5 0	Wheelers	0 8 0	0 6 6
ailers	0 8 0	0 7 0	Water-bailers	0 8 0	0 6 6
rivers	0 8 0	0 5 0	Horse-drivers	0 8 0	0 6 0
en	0 7 6	0 7 0	Stablemen	0 8 0	0 7 0
rs	0 7 0	0 6 0	Labourers	0 6 6	0 6 0
....	0 7 6	0 7 0	Flatters	0 7 6	0 6 0
s	0 3 6	0 3 0	Trappers	0 4 0	0 3 6
....	0 5 0	0 2 3	Boys	0 3 6	0 3 0

—The Union rules fix 43½ hours as the maximum working hours per week for miners, and 48 r those engaged in mechanical trades about the mines. The actual time worked during not average more than 32 hours for miners and 45 hours for mechanical trades.

Silver-mines, Broken Hill District.

cs and surface -	per day.		Mechanics and surface Hands—*continued.*	per day.	
eers	0 10 6	0 9 0	Labourers	0 7 6	0 7 6
s and bricklayers....	0 10 6	0 10 0	Boys	0 7 6	0 2 6
nters	0 10 6	0 9 0	Tappers	0 9 0	0 9 0
smiths	0 10 6	0 9 0	Slag-wheelers	0 8 4	0 8 4
smiths' strikers......	0 7 6	0 7 6	Feeders	0 9 0	0 9 0
e-drivers, stationary..	0 9 0	0 8 0	Charge-wheelers	0 8 4	0 8 4
,, hoisting ..	0 10 0	0 9 0	Underground Hands—		
en	0 9 0	0 8 4	Miners....................	0 9 0	0 9 0
en's assistants	0 8 4	0 5 0	Brace and platmen........	0 8 4	0 8 4
makers	0 10 6	0 9 0	Truckers	0 7 6	0 7 6
iths	0 10 0	0 10 0	Ore-dressing Hands—		
-drivers (exclusive of) occupied in cleaning harnessing)	0 8 4	0 8 0	Shift washers	0 9 0	0 9 0
			Engine-drivers, stationary	0 9 0	0 9 0

—Wages are calculated at per day of eight hours. All time worked over eight hours per aid for at the rate of time and quarter (Sundays not excepted).

XI (b).—PERSONS ENGAGED ON RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Salaried Staff.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Mi
	per annum.			per annum	
	£	£		£	£
Station-masters	400	150	Operators	200	[illegible]
Officers-in-charge	220	130	Clerks	450	1
Night Officers	185	120	Junior Clerks	120	[illegible]

Wages Staff.

	per day.			per day.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£
Locomotive Engine-drivers	0 15 0	0 11 0	Carriage and Waggon Examiners	0 13 0	0
,, Firemen	0 10 0	0 8 0	Carpenters	0 13 0	0
,, Cleaners	0 10 0	0 4 0	Painters	0 12 0	0
Fitters	0 15 0	0 8 0	Stationary Engine-drivers	0 10 6	0
Turners	0 12 8	0 8 0	Fuelmen	0 9 0	0
Machinists	0 12 0	0 7 0	Oilers	0 8 0	0
Boiler-makers	0 14 0	0 8 0	Pumpers	0 10 0	0
Boiler-makers' Assistants	0 8 6	0 6 6	Guards	0 12 0	0
Moulders	0 14 0	0 8 0	Assistant Guards	0 8 6	0
Blacksmiths	0 16 0	0 8 0	Porters	0 10 0	0
Strikers	0 8 2	0 6 6	Junior Porters	0 5 0	0
Tinsmiths	0 11 8	0 9 8	Signalmen	0 11 6	0
Pattern-makers	0 16 0	0 10 0	Shunters	0 11 0	0
Gasfitters	0 12 0	0 6 6	Gangers	0 12 0	0
Carriage and Waggon Builders	0 14 6	0 8 0	Fettlers and Labourers	0 9 0	0

XI (c).—PERSONS ENGAGED IN SHIPPING.

	per month.			per month	
First Officers (Steamers)	15 0 0	10 0 0	Firemen	5 0 0	5
,, (Sailing Vessels	8 0 0	6 10 0	Boatswains	7 0 0	7
Second Officers (Steamers)	12 0 0	10 0 0	Seamen (Steamers)	6 0 0	6
,, (Sailing Vessels	6 0 0	5 0 0	,, (Sailing Vessels)	4 0 0	3
Third Officers (Steamers)	10 0 0	9 0 0	Trimmers	6 0 0	6
Chief Engineers	22 0 0	15 0 0	Sea Cooks	11 0 0	5
Second Engineers	16 0 0	14 10 0	Chief Stewards	12 0 0	10
Third Engineers	13 10 0	12 10 0	Assistant Stewards	5 0 0	3
Fourth Engineers	11 0 0	10 10 0			
	per hour.			per hour.	
Wharf Labourers and Lumpers	0 1 0	0 0 10	Wharf Labourers and Lumpers (Overtime)	0 1 6	0
				per week.	
Wharf Labourers and Lumpors (constant hands)				2 5 0	2

NOTE.—The rates quoted for steamers are those paid by owners belonging to the Steamship Ow Association of Australasia. Some owners of small steamers pay lower rates, and on ships t with the islands and foreign parts the monthly rates paid to seamen range from £3 15s. to £3

XI (d).—PERSONS ENGAGED IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS.

Coaching.

	per week.			per week	
Carters and Trollymen	2 2 0	1 16 0	Grooms	1 10 0	1
Drivers (Licensed)	2 5 0	1 10 0	Omnibus Drivers	2 0 0	1
Farriers	2 10 0	2 2 0	Omnibus conductors	0 12 0	0 1

XI (*d*).—Persons Engaged in Other Occupations—*continued.*

Attendance and Service.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	per week.			per week.	
Males—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Females—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Barmen	1 5 0	0 15 0	Barmaids	1 2 6	0 15 0
Butlers	1 0 0	0 15 0	Cooks	1 0 0	0 12 0
Coachmen	1 5 0	0 15 0	General Servants	0 15 0	0 8 0
Cooks	3 0 0	0 15 0	House and Parlour Maids	0 12 0	0 8 0
Dairymen	0 16 0	0 10 0	Laundresses	1 0 0	0 12 0
Gardeners	1 5 0	0 15 0	Nursemaids	0 10 0	0 5 0
Gardeners' Labourers	0 15 0	0 10 0	Waitresses	0 15 0	0 10 0
Scullerymen	0 15 0	0 8 0			
Waiters	1 0 0	0 15 0			

Note.—Board and lodging is provided in addition to the wages quoted.

Shop Assistants.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Males—			Females—		
Butchers	3 10 0	2 0 0	Milliners	3 0 0	0 15 0
Drapers	3 0 0	1 10 0	Drapers	2 0 0	0 15 0
Grocers	2 15 0	1 10 0	General	2 0 0	0 10 0
Ironmongers	3 10 0	1 10 0	Girls	0 5 0	0 2 6
General	2 5 0	1 10 0			
Boys	0 10 0	0 7 0			

Note.—At the Abattoirs butchers are paid by piecework, and when in full employment are able to earn over £7 per week, out of which they have each to pay an assistant.

In some shops, assistants (male and female) are, in addition to the wages here quoted, provided with a midday meal, and, when working late, with tea.

Municipal Employés (City).

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Overseers	3 6 0	2 14 0	Carters	3 3 0	3 3 0
Timekeepers	3 6 0	2 15 0	Inspectors of Wood-blocking	2 8 0	2 8 0
Engineers	3 15 0	2 14 0	House Inspectors	2 8 0	2 8 0
Engine-drivers	3 6 0	3 6 0	Park Rangers	2 5 0	2 5 0
Firemen	2 10 0	2 2 0	*Watchmen	2 9 0	2 9 0
Masons	3 0 0	3 0 0	Bailiffs	3 0 0	3 0 0
Plumbers	3 0 0	2 8 0	Messengers	2 8 0	2 8 0
Blacksmiths	3 0 0	2 2 0	Tar-pavers and Asphalters	2 2 0	2 2 0
Carpenters	3 9 0	2 14 0	Street Cleaners	2 2 0	2 2 0
Gangers	3 0 0	2 5 0	Metal Gatherers	1 10 0	1 10 0
Labourers	2 2 0	2 2 0			

* Working 7 days per week.

XI (*e*).—Persons engaged in Agricultural and Pastoral Pursuits.

Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Occupation.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Boundary Riders	0 17 6	0 15 0	Farm Labourers	0 15 0	0 10 0
Bush Carpenters	1 0 0	0 15 0	Milkers	0 15 0	0 10 0
Cooks (Station)	2 0 0	1 0 0			
	per 100 sheep.				
Shearers	1 0 0	0 17 6			
	per annum.			per annum.	
	£	£		£	£
Married Couples (wife, cook)	60	50	Stockmen	52	50
„ (husband, cook)	75	60	Vignerons	52	50

Note.—Except in the case of shearers, board and lodging, or rations, are provided in addition to the rates quoted.

Trade Unions.

The subject of Trade Unionism has been dealt with by legislat only one instance in this colony—the Trade Union Act of 1881. measure enacts that the purposes of any trade union shall not be d to be unlawful, so as to render its members liable to criminal pr tion for conspiracy or otherwise, merely because they are in restra trade ; nor for such a reason shall any agreement or trust be r void or voidable. It is declared that nothing in the Act shall any Court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of agree between the members of a trade union, concerning the conditions which they shall transact business, employ, or be employed, or f payment of subscriptions or penalties to the union, or for a tion of the funds to certain specified purposes ; but at the time the Act is not to be deemed to make such agreements unl Neither the Friendly Societies Act nor the Companies Act apply to trade unions, nor can the unions be registered under of those Acts. Provision is made, however, for the registrati trade unions under the present Act, provided always that if the purposes of such trade union be unlawful the registration sh void. The Registrar of Friendly Societies is appointed Re of Trade Unions, and provisions are made for the appointme trustees, treasurers, etc., for the establishment of rules, the prepa of annual returns, dissolution or amalgamation, change of name other matters. The term "Trade Union" is defined to mean "any c nation, whether temporary or permanent, for regulating the rel between workmen and employers, or between workmen and wor or between employer and employers, for imposing restrictive cond on the conduct of any trade or business, whether such combi would or would not, if this Act had not been passed, have been d to have been an unlawful combination by reason of some one or m its purposes being in restraint of trade." Few of the trade u have complied with the provisions of the Act relative to returns; quently particulars in regard to their membership cannot be given any accuracy.

No union for the purpose of regulating the mutual relations of men and employers has so far been registered. The unions h every case been established for the promotion of the interests of one or the other. Under the provisions of the Act there had been 161 registered up to the end of 1895, of which 8 were societies promot employers and 153 by workmen. Many of these unions are not existence ; but it is impossible to say how many remain at the p time, as the Registrar has been unable to reach a large number

es. Of the 161 unions registered, only the following seventeen
d the statutory return of their operations in 1895:—

Name of Union.	Amount of Funds, 31st December, 1894.			Receipts, 1895.			Expenditure, 1895.			Amount of Funds, 31st December, 1895.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ated Miners' Association—Hunter r District	2,180	14	11	2,362	2	10	3,725	5	6	817	12	3
and Engineers' of Harbour and r Steamers Association of N.S.W.	929	2	1	313	1	4	343	15	0	898	8	5
ocomotive Engine Drivers', Fire- and Cleaners' Association	1,469	11	9	654	9	4	557	3	8	1,566	17	5
Progressive Society of Carpenters Joiners	265	10	3	33	8	0	62	0	0	241	18	3
ers' Protective Association of New h Wales (half-year)	3	18	3	26	10	6	21	17	8	8	11	1
Sailmakers' Trade and Burial ty of Sydney	151	9	4	20	13	4	6	0	6	166	2	2
malgamated Railway and Tramway ce Association	266	15	11	387	16	9	84	11	2	570	1	6
n of Trade Marks and Exchange ciation (Limited)	5	1	7	59	14	10	68	6	4	....		
e Typographical Association	94	12	5	67	3	3	56	17	2	104	18	6
ociety of Boilermakers and Iron Builders of New South Wales	2,199	8	10	474	6	1	217	14	10	2,456	0	1
th Wales Protective Association of ry Engine Drivers	7	16	3½	64	13	2	49	8	0	23	1	5½
ian Society of Engineers	331	9	7	120	4	11	50	3	6	401	11	0
n Fishermen's Benefit and Pro- re Society of New South Wales	100	11	9	38	2	0	41	6	6	106	7	3
ated Hotel and Caterers Em- ees' Union in New South Wales	98	13	4	113	0	5	91	18	1	119	15	8
langes Engine Drivers' and Fire- s Association	5	17	1	37	16	6	30	3	4	13	10	3
sen Coopers' Society of New South s	281	0	6	148	6	1	128	15	0½	300	11	6½
ated Miners' Association of Aus- ia—Barrier, Colonial District, No. 3	....			....			....			235	13	4

Co-operative Societies.

; V of the Friendly Societies Act of 1873 deals with the registra-
Co-operative Trading and Industrial Societies. It provides that
number of persons, not being less than seven, may establish a
under this Act for the purpose of carrying on any labour, trade,
dicraft, whether wholesale or retail, except the business of bank-
hich the members of such society voluntarily unite to carry on or
e, and of applying the profits to any lawful purposes; and the
and selling of land, and the working of mines and quarries, shall
med to be a trade within the meaning of this section." The Act
requires the word "Limited" to be the last word in the name
y society registered, and limits the interest to be held or claimed
member in any society to the sum of £200.

provisions of the Act relating to Co-operative Societies have
nade use of by the public to a very limited extent. Sixty-two

societies have been registered since the Act came into force, but of these there were not more than seventeen in existence in the middle of 1896. The balance-sheets, published at various dates between November, 1895, and September, 1896, and extending over periods of three, six, and twelve months, show that these seventeen societies had altogether a paid-up capital of £17,416, with reserve and contingency funds amounting to £15,278, and balances at the credit of profit and loss accounts of £6,858. Their liabilities, exclusive of liabilities to shareholders, amounted to £12,649, viz., bank overdrafts, £2,225; bills payable and sundry creditors, £6,780; and other liabilities, £3,644; while their assets were given as £51,773, viz., stock and fittings, £26,956; sundry debtors, £7,660; bank and cash balances, £1,860; and other assets, £15,297. The seventeen societies had, therefore, a total excess of assets over liabilities of £39,124.

TRADES CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.

After the termination of the maritime strike of 1890 a Royal Commission was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the causes and means for prevention of industrial disputes. The introduction of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council of Conciliation and Arbitration into Parliament early in 1892 was one of the results of this Commission. The bill became law, and was to continue in force for four years from March 31, 1892. Under it two Councils were established—a Council of Arbitration, consisting of three, and a Council of Conciliation, consisting of eighteen members. One of the former and nine of the latter were elected by a majority of the organisations representing the interests of the employers, and a similar number by a majority of the organisations representing the employés. The President of the Council of Arbitration was appointed by the Governor and Executive Council on the recommendation of the other two members of the Council. The regulations under the Act were carried out by an officer called the Clerk of Awards. From the time the two Councils were appointed to the end of 1894 only one case of conciliation and one of arbitration were dealt with by them. Negotiations were opened in a large number of other cases, but without success. The principle of the Act being a purely voluntary one, the Councils had no power to bring either party to a dispute before the industrial tribunal. Parliament having refused to vote supplies for the continuance of the Councils during 1895, they came to an end on December 31, 1894. The Act itself, however, remained in force until March 31, 1896.

In the early part of 1895 the Minister for Public Instruction was created Minister for Labour and Industry, and took over the Labour Bureau. As has already been mentioned on a previous page, a Factories and Shops Act was passed in 1896, and is administered by Minister for Labour and Industry, assisted by a staff of inspectors.

PRODUCTION.

er chapters of this work details have been given of the various g industries, so that it will not be necessary to reproduce them ; will be interesting, however, to group these industries together ble in order that some idea may be given of their respective ce. From the total obtained by adding together the production rious industries there must be deducted something to allow for twice included, first as the output of one class of industry, and as the raw material of a more advanced industry. Under re is included the value of green food, which may be termed a erial in dairying ; grain for swine and poultry feeding also twice ; coal, coke, and timber used in mining appear under nd forestry, and afterwards in the value of metals obtained by ; and there are other small items of a like character. It must stood that so far as the manufacturing industry is concerned, iction is net, raw material in all its forms, including coal, being from the totals given. The value of material twice included £199,700, which forms a deduction from the total of the table :—

Industry.	Hands employed.	Value of Production.
	No	£
ring and allied processes	65,300	7,955,000
e	67,180	5,321,570
nd poultry farming	23,634	2,546,000
dustry	30,323	11,774,000
oduction	39,938	4,354,690
nd fisheries	7,200	715,000
Total	233,575	32,666,260
for raw material twice included		199,700
Net production £		32,466,560

gure £32,466,560 just arrived at is less than the value of n in 1891 by £4,273,200. This fall is due entirely to the prices, as in every branch of industry, except manufacturing, s been a distinct advance since the year named. If the es had been obtained last year for produce as were obtained in value of production would have been £38,959,870. The following ble shows the value of production in various years from 1871 additional columns have been added, so as to show the value of production if prices had remained unaltered, and also the valu 1896 prices only had been obtained :—

Year.	Actual Value of Production.	Value if 1871 prices had been obtained.	Value if 1896 prices had been obtained.
	£	£	£
1871	15,379,000	15,379,000	8,210,890
1888	25,180,000	34,972,200	18,707,280
1891	36,739,760	57,405,900	30,616,470
1896	32,466,560	60,809,900	32,466,560

The foregoing table is not given with a view of showing that difference between what was obtained for the production of the co in 1896 and the amount which would have been realised had 1871 p prevailed represents a loss; on the contrary, as has been elsew pointed out, although the colony has suffered by the fall in prices, loss is chiefly occasioned by the fact that she is a debtor country, that the fall in import values has not been equivalent to the fal export values. What the table really does show is that the volum production has been more than sustained. Compared with populat the value of production shows an average of £25 4s. 3d. per head which £19 1s. 5d. represents the yield of industries directly conne with the soil, a result which very few countries can claim to equal.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION.

Roads and Bridges.

R many years settlement in New South Wales was restricted to
the narrow belt of land shut in between the Blue Mountains
the sea. Several main roads were formed through this country
in a few years after the foundation of the colony. These roads
ected the infant towns of Parramatta, Liverpool, Windsor, and
ith with the metropolis, and were constructed entirely by bond
ur. The abrupt wall of sandstone rising on the farther side
he Nepean barred all access to the interior of the country. As
as the year 1796 George Bass made an attempt to cross the
ntain range, but returned after an unsuccessful journey, reporting
it was impossible to find a passage even for a person on foot.
813 a protracted season of drought, attended by considerable losses
ngst the stock, brought home very clearly to the settlers the
iction that the future of the colony entirely depended upon the
nsion of grazing land beyond the narrow limits within which they
then hemmed. In the month of May of that year Mr. Gregory
land, Mr. W. C. Wentworth, and Lieutenant Lawson attempted
ind a passage across the mountains. After meeting with diffi-
es which seem astonishing enough to the present generation, who
seen a railway carried over the same track by which Bathurst
be reached in a few hours, these gentlemen succeeded in
ing a way—sometimes by creeping through dense forests, at
rs by scaling tremendous precipices—to the vast plains lying west
he Great Cordillera of Australia. They returned on the 6th June,
shortly afterwards Governor Macquarie sent a party of surveyors,
er Mr. George W. Evans, Deputy Surveyor-General, to report on
practicability of making a road. The report was favourable, and
construction of the great western highway was at once commenced,
work being performed by gangs of bond labourers. The track thus
e formed a continuation of the Great Western Road from Penrith,
it was completed as far as Bathurst by the 21st January, 1815.

he discovery of the Bathurst Plains and the completion of the
ntain road gave so great an impetus to settlement that it was found
ossible to keep pace in the matter of roads with the demands of the

settlers. The Government, therefore, contented itself with mai the roads already constructed, and extending them in the directio principal centres of settlement. For many years these main ro the only ones which received attention. This would perhaps ha sufficient had the progress of settlement subsequent to 1850 bee to that made during previous years. Such, however, was case. The gold discovery entirely altered the circumstances colony, and during the period of excitement and change which that remarkable event so many new roads were opened, an increased so largely, that the general condition of the public h was by no means good. The Roads Department was forme back as 1857, and although good service was done by th pioneers before that date, the modern system of roadmaking ma to have begun with the creation of the department. It was not, h until 1864 that the whole of the roads, both main and sub received attention at the hands of the State.

The principal main roads of the colony are :—

Northern Road—length, 405 miles, from Morpeth to M New England.

Western Road—length, 338 miles, from Sydney to Warren Bathurst, Orange, and many other important townships prolonged to the Darling, at Bourke, by a line 175 length.

Southern Road—length, 385 miles, from Sydney to Albur road was, before the construction of the railway, th highway between Sydney and Melbourne.

South Coast Road—length, 250 miles. This road, after Campbelltown, ascends the coast range, along the top it runs as far as Coal Cliff. It then traverses the I district, parallel to the coast, and passes through the ri watered by the Shoalhaven, Clyde, and Moruya, as far whence it extends, as a minor road, to the southern the colony.

None of these roads has now the importance which it form sessed. The railways of the colony for the most part follow th tion of the main roads, and attract to themselves nearly all the traffic. The tendency now is to make the roads act as feede railway, by converging the traffic from outlying districts tow venient stations along the line.

The expenditure by the Government upon the different roads in accordance with the recommendation of the Road Superi for the district, which is based upon the requirements for ea Formerly the roads of the colony were divided into seven classes a to their importance, and the yearly expenditure ranged from £50 on roads in the first class to £5 per mile on those in the sevent network of roads spreading over the face of the colony is divided, rposes of maintenance, into road districts and road trusts. The colony is divided into sixty-two road districts, each of which is in the charge of a Superintendent, who is directly responsible to ommissioner for Roads. The Road Superintendents have the r part of the road communication of the colony outside the municipal aries, as well as a portion of the roads within municipalities, under are. The road trusts have the supervision of the expenditure of grants for the maintenance of roads in districts which are chiefly or importance; there are, however, certain important roads in the y of the metropolis governed by trusts. The length of roads in of Road Superintendents on the 30th June, 1897, was 38,881 miles, about 818 miles were under the care of road trusts. There were ,099 miles within municipal areas, which were subsidised by the tment, making a total of 40,798 miles under control. Of the 38,881 in charge of Road Superintendents, 7,277 miles were metalled, ted, or gravelled; 5,367 miles were formed and drained, and all ary culverts constructed, but were not metalled; 5,375 miles cleared and drained; 8,231 miles were cleared only; and 12,631 were roads which wind their way through the forests of the interior, along the lines marked out by the cart-wheels of the foremost s, and form, in dry weather, adequate means of communication for ttlers, although it must be acknowledged that in seasons of rain roads are frequently impassable. Besides the roads mentioned there were 1,486 miles of mountain passes. Many of these passes ted the most formidable difficulties, and their construction reflects credit upon the engineering skill of the officer, now deceased, or so many years designed and supervised the construction and enance of the roads and bridges of the colony.

ny of the earliest bridges erected in the colony were of stone, and ill existing. Those erected in the period following the extension lement to the interior were chiefly of timber, and have since been ed, after a life of about twenty-five years. Nearly all the large s of recent date are of iron or steel, and some of them have rected under engineering conditions almost unique, owing to the arity of the river-flow in certain parts of the country. There were ther, on the 30th June, 1897, 3,262 bridges of 20 feet span and comprising 8,256 spans, covering a length of 281,086 feet; while were also 32,671 culverts under 20 feet span, 486,907 feet in length; 5,534 causeways, of a total length of 377,298 feet. Where the has not warranted the construction of bridges, or where local stances have rendered them inadvisable, punts or ferries have ntroduced. In June, 1897, there were 10 iron punts, 94 timber and 4 horse-boats. Of these punts and boats, 7 were worked by gearing and wire-rope, 82 by hand-gearing and wire-rope, and 19 re-rope without gearing. In addition to these, the Department arge of one steam-launch, 10 iron and 59 timber flood-boats, 120 other boats, and 10 punt-slips for the execution of repairs. On an average, 1,504 men were employed during each month of the working year, in addition to 5,200 men engaged by contractors, making a total of 6,7[illegible] men.

The use of roads as the main arteries along which traffic from the metropolis to the interior flows has been superseded by the railways; but the roads remain not only the sole means of communication throughout a large part of the interior, but as most valuable feeders to the railway system of the country. No revenue is directly derived from roads, but their indirect advantages to the country have been very great, and after the lands and the railways they form the largest item of national property. It is estimated that £17,355,000 has been expended on roads and bridges since 1857, and their present value to the State, allowing for depreciation, cannot be less than £14,000,000. Their indirect value cannot be calculated; but as an instance of the change brought about by the system of road construction, it may be mentioned that after the organization of the Roads Department on its present basis the cost of carriage of goods by road and the time of transit was reduced by more than one half, as will appear from the following statement:—

Main Roads.	Distance.	Carriage by Road, 1857.				Carriage by Road, [illegible]			
		Time in transit.	Cost per ton.			Time in transit.	Cost per ton.		
	miles.	days.	£	s.	d.	days.	£	s.	d.
Sydney to Goulburn	134	17½	12	5	0	7½	3	15	0
,, Bathurst...............	145	23½	15	10	0	11	6	10	0
Newcastle to Murrurundi.......	119	21	9	0	0	8	6	10	0

The progress exhibited during these seven years is very great. Part of the improvement may without hesitation be ascribed to better roads; but the decline in the demand for teams consequent on the cessation of the gold rush was also a cause of the lessened cost of transit. The price of carriage by road has not declined since 1864, most of the traffic being through districts remote from the centres of population, where the requirements of the teamsters are costly to supply. The roads followed by the teams are those leading to the railway lines, and the loading consists for the most part of station supplies, wool, and other produce. The rates vary according to the distance and the nature of the country traversed, but the following scale may be taken as typical of ary charges for outward loading—that is, from the interior to ilways. Inward goods average about 1d. per mile less than those ird :—

	s.	d.	
Up to 40 miles	1	6	per ton per mile.
" 100 "	1	0	"
" 200 "	0	11	"
" 300 "	0	10	"

slight consideration of these figures will be sufficient to show how ly the business of the country has been facilitated by the construction ilways. If 100 miles be assumed as the average distance which are carried, the prevailing rate by teams would be 12d. per ton nile. On the railways, as far back as 1872, the carriage was only , and to-day it averages not more than 1·6d. It would be over- ig the case against road carriage, however, if the latter figure were ared with the average price charged by teams; but a comparison ery respect perfectly fair can be made between the cost of carrying al merchandise by rail, which is only 2·53d. per ton per mile, and of goods by teams, which, as stated above, is 12d. per ton per mile. saving by rail carriage is, therefore, nearly 80 per cent., and if it been possible for the whole of the railway traffic for the year 1896 carried by teams, the cost would have been £7,357,200 instead sum of £1,551,143 (exclusive of terminal charges) actually charged e Railway Commissioners. In the portion of this chapter devoted ods traffic on the railways, particulars are given of the gradual ening of this form of carriage during the past twenty years.

uring the last three years the old time spectacle might frequently een of huge loads of goods being carried along the main roads n sight of the railway lines. The price paid to carriers was not ly disclosed, but from the nature of things it was probably less would have been paid to the Railway Commissioners for the service. The competition of teams with the railway for the ge of a certain class of goods was made possible by the extreme ness of fodder and the low price of horses, and to the circumstance a number of carriers could not otherwise find employment; more- it only lasted for a few months in each year, and did not affect ilway earnings to any appreciable extent.

e total expenditure on account of roads of all classes during the year l 30th June, 1897, was £676,210. This sum, however, included the nistrative expenses of the Department, and the expenditure on punt aches and similar works incidental to the road traffic of the country. he following statement is given the expenditure on account of the ruction and maintenance of roads and bridges since 1857, with ls since the year 1881. It is plain that, until recent years, this

form of expenditure increased, at a rate very much faster than t
of the general population:—

Year.	Expenditure by Roads Department.	Expenditure by Trustees.	Total.
	£	£	£
1857 to 1880	5,430,923	782,907	6,213,830
1881	484,567	23,186	507,753
1882	577,212	24,722	601,934
1883	613,847	24,938	638,785
1884	750,584	27,722	778,306
1885	800,962	24,404	825,366
1886	628,379	28,414	656,793
1887	721,994	45,433	767,427
1888	663,929	31,503	695,432
1889	632,398	31,361	663,759
1890	770,809	34,500	805,309
1891	965,688	31,990	997,678
1892	859,028	30,605	889,633
1893	676,233	30,330	706,563
*1894-5	800,620	30,034	830,654
1895-6	757,115	19,285	776,400
1896-7	666,300	9,910	676,210
Total	16,800,588	1,231,244	18,031,832

* 1894 and first half of 1895.

Besides the roads maintained by the Government, there existed, the close of the municipal year in February, 1896, 7,117 miles of ro and streets belonging to and largely maintained by the municipalities the colony. Of these roads, 2,265 miles were regularly formed a metalled, gravelled or ballasted, and 1,335 formed; while 1,591 mil were cleared, and 1,926 miles not cleared. The value of these roads estimated at £4,780,000; but this sum must be looked upon as approximation only, as the information obtained from the vario municipalities is not complete.

RAILWAYS.

The first attempt to introduce into New South Wales the blessing railway communication, which has so revolutionised the commerce the older parts of the world, was made in 1846. On the 26th Aug of that year a meeting was held in Sydney at which it was decided survey a line to connect the metropolis with the city of Goulburn. T years afterwards, on the 11th September, 1848, the Sydney Tramwa and Railway Company was formed, with a capital of £100,000, havi for its object the construction of railways to Parramatta and Liverpool, with possible extensions, in course of time, to Bathurst and Goulburn. No time was lost in breaking ground, and on the 3rd July, 1850, the Hon. Mrs. Keith Stewart, daughter of the Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, turned the first sod of the first railway constructed in Australia. The affairs of the Sydney Tramroad and Railway Company, however, did not prosper as the promoters had expected they would do, and it was found necessary to transfer the property of the company to the Government of the colony. Meanwhile another company had been started in 1853, with the object of constructing a railway from the city of Newcastle to Maitland; but it met with no more success than the Sydney company, and shared the same fate. On the Government taking possession of the property of the defunct companies, however, the works were carried on with more vigour, and on the 26th September, 1855, the line from Sydney to Parramatta was declared open for public traffic, and the extension to Goulburn was opened on the 27th May, 1869.

The progress of railway construction during the twenty years which followed the opening of the first line was very slow, for in 1875 the length of the lines in operation had only reached 435 miles, or at the rate of 21¾ miles opened per year. Not a single mile of railway was opened during the years 1865 and 1866; but in 1867 the construction of these great commercial highways received a fresh impetus, and continued to advance yearly until 1872, when it stood still for another period of two years, during which only 5 miles of line were thrown open to traffic. During 1875, 33 miles were opened, and from the succeeding year till 1889 still greater activity prevailed, 1,748 miles being constructed during this period, or a yearly average of 125 miles; but this rate of increase received a check, and only 14 miles were opened during the three following years. There were, however, 154 miles opened during the railway year ending June, 1893; 150 miles in the succeeding year; and 30 miles in the year ended June, 1895. In the following working year no lines were opened; but during the year ended June, 1897, light lines of the "Pioneer" class were opened as follows:—Jerilderie to Berrigan, 21 miles 65 chains; Parkes to Bogan Gate, being part of the Parkes-Condobolin line, 23 miles 38 chains; and Narrabri to Moree, 63 miles 10 chains. Lines of the "Pioneer" class are in course of construction from Bogan Gate to Condobolin, and from Nevertire to Warren, the former 39 miles 22 chains in length, the latter 12 miles 3 chains. In each case the line will be opened for traffic by the close of 1897. Parliament has also sanctioned the construction of lines from Tamworth to Manilla, and from Berrigan to Finley, and they will shortly be taken in hand.

The progress in construction of the State railways of the colony may be traced in the statement given below. It is necessary to point out that the mileage includes the Campbelltown-Camden Tramway, the Kogarah-Sans Souci Tramway, and the Yass Tramway, which are worked with the railways, and that after 1887 the year shown must be taken as ending on the 30th June, a change in the working year having be made in 1888 :—

Year.	Opened during the year.	Total opened.	Year.	Opened during the year.	Total opened.
	miles.	miles.		miles.	miles.
1855	16	16	1877	90	598
1856	9	25	1878	90	688
1857	17	42	1879	45	733
1858	15	57	1880	115	848
1859	nil.	57	1881	148	996
1860	13	70	1882	282	1,278
1861	4	74	1883	52	1,330
1862	24	98	1884	301	1,631
1863	27	125	1885	114	1,745
1864	20	145	1886	162	1,907
1865	nil.	145	1887	151	2,058
1866	nil.	145	1888	68	2,126
1867	60	205	1889	57	2,183
1868	44	249	1890	10	2,193
1869	70	319	1891	1	2,194
1870	21	340	1892	3	2,197
1871	19	359	1893	154	2,351
1872	38	397	1894	150	2,501
1873	5	402	1895	30	2,531
1874	nil.	402	1896	nil.	2,531
1875	33	435	1897	108	2,639
1876	73	508			

Of the 2,639 miles in operation on the 30th June, 1897, there were 2,476 miles of single line, 154½ miles of double line, and 8½ miles of line with four tracks. The quadrupled lines, which extend from Sydney to Flemington on the suburban line, were brought into use during the year ended June, 1892. The double lines extend from Flemington to Penrith, 26 miles; from Granville to Picton, 39½ miles; from Illawarra Line Junction to Waterfall, 23 miles; from Strathfield to Hornsby, 14 miles; from Newcastle to Maitland, 20 miles; from St. Leonards to Milson's Point, 3 miles; from Redfern to Darling Harbour, 1¼ miles; from Sydenham to Belmore, 5 miles; from Teralba to Adamstown, 8 miles; while various short lengths of line make up the remaining 14¾ miles.

The progress of the accommodation afforded by the State railways of the colony can be fairly gauged by comparing the number of persons to each mile of line open for traffic at different periods, and the average number of train miles run per inhabitant. Thus in 1860 there were 4,979 persons to each mile of line, but by the end of the year 1880 the work of construction had proceeded at a rate so much faster than the increase in the population that the average number of persons per mile had fallen to 882, so that the facilities afforded by the railways were more than five times as great as in the year first named; while in 1897 the average population per mile of line was reduced to 497. Th ease in the average number of train miles run per inhabitant has very rapid, rising from 0·5 miles in 1860 to 1·8 in 1870, 4·4 in), and 7·4 miles in 1890. The maximum was reached in 1891, n the number of train miles run per head of the population aged 7·5. For the four years ended 30th June, 1897, the rate was, oximately, 6 miles to each member of the community. The wing statement illustrates the extension of railway facilities since) :—

Year.	Population to each mile of line.	Number of train miles run.	Number of train miles run per head of population.
1860	4,979	174,249	0·5
1865	2,822	483,446	1·2
1870	1,467	901,139	1·8
1875	1,366	1,472,204	2·5
1880	882	3,239,462	4·4
1885	544	6,638,399	7·2
1890	502	8,008,826	7·4
1891	521	8,410,421	7·5
1892	538	8,356,096	7·2
1893	515	7,505,310	6·3
1894	495	7,169,785	5·9
1895	501	7,594,281	6·1
1896	510	7,719,618	6·0
1897	497	8,130,405	6·2

COMPARISON OF RAILWAY FACILITIES.

'ew South Wales stands in a good position among the Australasian nies in regard to railway development, as will be seen from the wing table, which shows the length of Government and of private s open for traffic in the various colonies in the early part of 1897 :—

Colony.	Lines Open.		
	Government.	Private.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.
New South Wales...	2,639	85	2,724
Victoria	3,129	......	3,129
Queensland	2,445	......	2,445
South Australia	1,869	20	1,889
Western Australia...	970	391	1,361
Tasmania..............	420	55	475
New Zealand	2,018	167	2,185
Total	13,490	718	14,208

Points of comparison between the railways of a large and thi inhabited country such as New South Wales and those of the count of the Old World are difficult to obtain. The following table, howev shows the average population and the average number of square mi of territory per mile of line open, in the principal countries of t world. It will be seen that New South Wales comes fairly well out the comparison:—

Countries.	Length of Railway.	Population per Mile of Line.	Area per Mile of Line.
Australasia:—	miles.	No.	sq. miles.
New South Wales	2,724	481	114
Victoria	3,129	374	28
Queensland	2,445	196	273
South Australia	1,889	180	478
Western Australia	1,361	116	717
Tasmania	475	352	55
New Zealand	2,185	329	48
America:—			
Argentine Republic	8,832	447	201
Brazil	7,027	2,324	457
Canada	15,977	303	208
Chili	1,782	1,663	165
United States of America	181,020	346	16
Europe:—			
Austria-Hungary	18,983	2,179	13
Belgium	2,857	2,244	4
France	25,121	1,533	8
Germany	27,392	1,908	8
Great Britain and Ireland	21,174	1,799	6
Italy	9,579	3,286	11
Netherlands	1,672	2,906	8
Norway	1,071	1,868	116
Russia (exclusive of Finland)	21,948	4,291	86
Spain	7,301	2,495	27
Sweden	6,058	812	29
Switzerland	2,233	1,314	7
Asia:—			
India (inclusive of Native States)	19,678	14,596	79
Africa:—			
Cape Colony	2,441	701	90
Natal	402	1,353	51

RAILWAY SYSTEMS.

The railway system of New South Wales is divided into three distin branches, each representing a system of its own. The southern syste including the principal line of the colony, branches at Junee, and pl the important district of Riverina, as far as the town of Hay in rection, and Berrigan in another, in direct communication with ydney, from which they are distant 454 and 434 miles respectively. his branch is termed the south-western line. From several other oints of the line branches connecting other important districts ith the metropolis have been opened for traffic. From Culcairn, 30 iles from Albury, a line connects with Corowa, on the Murray. From ootamundra a line branches off in a southerly direction to Gundagai, nd another in a north-westerly direction to Temora, whilst from Murrumburrah a line has been constructed which connects Blayney on the western line with the southern and western systems of the railways of the colony. This branch line has been found of much benefit in allowing the direct shipment of stock from the pasture grounds to the Victorian markets. Nearer Sydney the important town of Goulburn will be the centre of a system of branch lines, one of which—that from Goulburn to Cooma—is already laid down, and brings the rich pastoral district of Monaro in direct communication with Sydney.

The southern main line is the most important of the railway lines in the colony, as it passes through the richest and most thickly-populated districts, and places Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide in direct communication. The traffic, both of passengers and of goods, on the southern system generally, is very extensive, and arrangements for the regular carriage of mails between the two great cities enable letters to be delivered in less than twenty hours. Sleeping cars are attached to these trains on the New South Wales side, and the omfort of travellers is assured by the introduction of the most modern mprovements in the construction and fitting up of the railway carriages. Since the completion of the railway from Melbourne to Adelaide, a distance of 509 miles, European mails are landed at the atter port and forwarded overland to all parts of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

Another line which forms part of the southern system has been onstructed, connecting the metropolis with the coastal district of llawarra, which is rich alike in coal and in the produce of agriculture. he present terminus is at Bomaderry, on the northern bank of the hoalhaven River, opposite to Nowra, but it is proposed to take it ventually to Jervis Bay, closely following the coast line. A proposal as also been made for the construction of a line from the port of Eden t Twofold Bay, in the south of the colony, to the township of Bega, n the centre of a rich agricultural district; but this is at present in beyance. At Sydenham, on the Illawarra railway, a line, 5 miles in ength, branches off to Belmore, and this will no doubt eventually be ontinued to Liverpool.

The western system of railways extends from Sydney in the direction of the Blue Mountains, of which it reaches the upper levels a little above Emu Plains by a direct line of steep gradient, which enables the locomotive to drag its heavy freight up the abrupt eastern slope of the mountains. Up to the 18th December, 1892, a zig-zag line was used to

enable trains to climb this slope of the mountains; but on
mentioned a deviation by which the zig-zag was avoided was
for traffic. To admit of a direct line of ascent, a tunnel, 32½ c
length, had to be constructed through part of a mountain.
runs along the top of the range until it descends into a valle
Mount Clarence by the Lithgow zig-zag, the construction c
is a triumph of engineering skill. In its course over th
tains the line passes through magnificent scenery of a c
peculiar to this part of the world, and remarkable for its
grandeur. Leaving the mountains, the western railway, after t
out a branch from Wallerawang to Mudgee, enters the]
Plains, and connects with the metropolis the rich agricultu
of the Bathurst, Orange, and Wellington districts. Beyond
it enters the pastoral country, and reaches the Darling at
503 miles from Sydney. At Orange a branch line, 97 miles in
connects that town with Forbes. From Parkes, one of the
on this line, an extension to Condobolin, 62½ miles distant, is in
construction—a section of this line, Parkes to Bogan Ga
miles in length, having been opened for traffic on the 15th De
1896. Farther west, at Nyngan, 377 miles from Sydney, a
line has been opened, connecting the important mining di
Cobar with Sydney, and affording at the same time rapid a
means of communication with the pastoral country of which
also the centre. It has been proposed to continue this line a
Wilcannia, on the Darling, whence it might be extended to
Hill, to meet the South Australian system, but for the present
ject remains in abeyance. The western railway system also in
short line from Blacktown to the Hawkesbury, *via* the towns of
and Richmond.

The northern system originally commenced at Newcastle, bu
necting line between Homebush and Waratah has been con
making Sydney the head of the whole of the railway system
colony. The Hawkesbury River has been crossed by an iron
2,896 feet long, in seven spans, the iron superstructure of wh
£327,000. This connecting line allows direct communication
Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, a distance from
end of 1,808 miles, and has been found of great value to those r
quick transit, and for the carriage of postal matter. It fa
moreover, the active business life of the colonies, and will be of
importance should at any time strategic movements require to l
in connection with military operations.

The northern line runs *via* Newcastle and the great coal
through the rich agricultural district of the Hunter Valley,
important part of the colony known as New England, passing
some of the largest inland towns in New South Wales, such a
land. The country traversed by this line north of Newcastle
tremely fertile. As the line goes farther north it passes the

and agricultural territory, and some important townships
viz., Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes, and Tenterfield, and
yond the last-mentioned township the line crosses the
allangarra or Jennings, where a junction is effected with
nd railways.
ern system also comprises a branch from Werris Creek to
ich is now extended as far as Moree, in the north-west, and
in the west, thus placing the Namoi and Gwydir pastoral
irect communication with the ports of Newcastle and Sydney.
England District a line has been long projected, which would
own of Glen Innes with that of Inverell on one side, and
of Grafton, on the Clarence, on the other; an alternative
n surveyed to connect the Clarence and New England dis-
oposed junction on the Northern line being at Llangothlin,
route and the one proposed from Glen Innes to Grafton
ical difficulties of such a magnitude that it is doubtful if
ill be carried out, at all events for some time to come. A
e North Coast railway, 64 miles in length, from the Tweed
smore, on the Richmond, was opened for traffic in 1894.
assed in 1896 for the construction of three new lines, viz.,
tire to Warren, which is now almost completed; from
Manilla, and from Berrigan to Finley.
ne was constructed in 1890, branching off the main northern
sby, 21 miles from Sydney, to Pearce's Corner, on the heights
rds, and this line was afterwards extended from the latter
north shore of Port Jackson, at Milson's Point. Proposals
ade from time to time to bridge the harbour, or to tunnel
and thus allow direct communication by rail between the
the north and the city on the south shore. In 1896
osals were submitted to a Parliamentary Committee, who
favour of a tunnel, and this action was endorsed by the
hen considering the private bills introduced for the purpose
the means of communication between the city and North

GRADIENTS.

ays of the colony have been constructed with a large pro-
teep gradients, but much has been done during the last few
uce some of the heaviest of these. The Railway Commis-
ne of their Annual Reports, drew a comparison between the
Wales lines and the Alpine railways, and it was found that
ts were steeper, and the curves sharper, on the lines of this
on the Alpine lines. By reducing some of the gradients,
cing locomotives of greater power than were formerly
onsiderable economy in working, as well as the expediting
s been effected. The traffic is now carried on more satis-
d the expense of extensive duplication works, which would

have been necessary under the system which previously existed, i been postponed for years. However, a great deal remains to be acc plished in the matter of reducing gradients, as will be seen on refer to the following table, which shows the number of miles on diff gradients in November, 1897. The distances given include the increa length of lines for deviations, and are therefore in excess of the tim table distances.

Gradients.	Southern System.	Western System.	Northern System.	Total.
1 in	mls. chs.	mls. chs.	mls. chs.	mls. chs.
18 to 30	4 19	1 63	....	6 2
31 ,, 40	58 26½	75 68	36 57	170 71½
41 ,, 50	60 29	52 17	72 13	184 59
51 ,, 60	39 59	55 19	45 23	140 21
61 ,, 70	47 53½	43 63¼	26 61	118 17¾
71 ,, 80	60 16	50 23½	30 44	141 3½
81 ,, 90	30 41	32 69	18 10	81 40
91 ,, 100	46 55	64 38½	45 36	156 49½
101 ,, 150	104 51	101 39	79 79½	286 9½
151 ,, 200	60 25½	50 77½	46 67½	158 10½
201 ,, 250	31 63	16 45	19 65	68 13
251 ,, 300	41 15	29 4	29 56	99 75
301 ,, level	537 28	258 60¾	266 11	1,062 19¾
Total........	*1,123 1½	833 27½	726 43	2,682 72

* 2 miles 29½ chains difference in mileage over deviations, &c.

Cost of Construction.

The following table shows the cost of construction of the various branches of the railway system of the colony at the middle of the year 1897. The average cost for the whole of the lines is calculated to be £12,132 per mile, including all charges except those for rolling-stock, machinery, and workshops—a figure which, considering the character of some parts of the country through which the lines have been carried, and the cost of labour, which is considerably greater in Australia than in most other countries, is by no means a high one. In considering in detail the figures given it is interesting to note the comparative low cost per mile of some of the extensions through pastoral country. Th line from Nyngan to Cobar averaged £3,712 per mile; that fr Molong to Forbes, £5,307; from Junee to Hay, £5,709; from We Creek to Narrabri, £5,871; and from Dubbo to Bourke, £5,970. Th line from Cootamundra to Temora was also cheaply constru the average cost per mile being £4,312. The lines of the "Pi s opened during the year, however, in a special manner show that, ertain districts of the colony, railways capable of effectively carrying traffic can be constructed at an average cost far below what has berto been attempted. The average cost of the line from Narrabri Moree was £2,025 per mile; that from Jerilderie to Berrigan, £1,778 : mile; and that from Parkes to Bogan Gate, £2,053 per mile. In nnection with the Culcairn-Corowa line, which averaged £4,444 per le, the betterment system was brought into operation. The Campbell-wn to Camden, the Kogarah to Sans Souci, and the Yass lines were nstructed cheaply for tram-lines:—

Lines opened for Traffic.	Length.	Total Cost.	Cost per Mile.
	m. ch.	£	£
Darling Harbour Branch	1 42½	363,106	237,130
Sydney to Granville	13 36¼	1,887,476	140,300
Granville to Goulburn...............	121 5¾	2,568,810	21,217
Goulburn to Wagga	174 79¼	1,509,080	8,624
Wagga to Wodonga	79 13¾	914,468	11,550
Culcairn to Corowa..................	47 39	211,050	4,444
Junee to Hay	167 35¾	955,937	5,709
Narrandera to Jerilderie	64 54¾	409,435	6,330
Granville to Penrith	21 26¼	609,355	28,570
Penrith to Bathurst	109 27	2,440,494	22,321
Bathurst to Dubbo	134 5	1,196,554	8,925
Dubbo to Bourke.....................	225 45	1,346,501	5,970
Nyngan to Cobar.....	81 27¼	301,964	3,712
Wallerawang to Mudgee	85 06	981,407	11,536
Blacktown to Richmond	16 12	175,823	10,887
Goulburn to Cooma.................	130 40	1,403,168	10,752
Cootamundra to Gundagai.........	33 45½	259,773	7,739
Cootamundra to Temora	38 69	167,564	4,312
Orange to Molong	22 60	269,821	11,860
Molong to Forbes	72 69	386,690	5,307
Murrumburrah to Blayney	110 63	1,079,496	9,744
Sydney to Kiama	71 53	1,953,015	27,253
Kiama to Nowra.....................	22 43½	363,284	16,115
Homebush to Waratah	93 03	2,630,577	28,274
Newcastle to Wallangarra.........	392 54	4,985,197	12,695
Werris Creek to Narrabri	96 48	567,156	5,871
Bullock Island Branch	1 45½	86,672	55,249
Morpeth Branch	3 37½	60,849	17,542
Hornsby to Milson's Point.........	13 27½	583,765	43,748
Lismore to Murwillumbah.........	63 57	882,338	13,849
Sydenham to Belmore	5 3½	179,333	35,555
Campbelltown to Camden.........	7 65	39,137	5,010
Kogarah to Sans Souci	4 71	12,111	2,478
Yass Tramway.....	2 73	28,339	9,730
Narrabri to Moree	63 10	127,818	2,025
Jerilderie to Berrigan	21 65	38,781	1,778
Parkes to Bogan Gate	23 38	48,194	2,053
Total or average......	2,639 56½	32,024,538	12,132

The amount expended on rolling-stock to the 30th June, 1897, £4,412,862 ; for machinery, £290,074 ; on workshops, £631,864 ; for furniture, £9,867 ; or £5,344,667 in all. This makes the total of all lines open for traffic, £37,369,205, or an average on all charg £14,157 per mile. The growth of the capital expenditure on lines may be traced below :—

Year.	Capital expended on lines open.	Year.	Capital expended on lines open.
	£		£
1855	515,347	1889	29,839,167
1860	1,422,672	1890	30,555,123
1865	2,746,373	1891	31,768,617
1870	5,566,092	1892	33,312,608
1875	7,245,379	1893	34,657,571
1880	11,778,819	1894	35,855,271
1885	21,831,276	1895	36,611,366
1886	24,071,454	1896	36,852,194
1887	26,532,122	1897	37,369,205
1888	27,722,748		

It will be seen that the cost of the lines open for traffic on the 30 June, 1897, as already stated, was £37,369,205. Of this amou £903,565 has been provided out of the Consolidated Revenue of colony, and debentures to the amount of £1,696,675 have been fina paid off, leaving a balance of £34,768,965 which has been raised by issue of debentures and other stock. As will be seen hereafter, the revenue for the year ending June, 1897, after paying working expens was £1,413,524, which gave a return of 3·78 per cent. upon the to capital expenditure on lines open for traffic, and 4·06 per cent. upon capital on which the country has to pay interest. The so-called reduct of the railway debt, however, is purely imaginary, seeing that the bulk the debentures retired were renewed out of fresh loans, and the sum p from revenue to redeem loans was not furnished by railway prof The proper comparison between railway earnings and interest char is obtained from the net earnings of railways on cost of constructi and the actual interest paid by the State on outstanding loans. The earnings of the railways represent 3·78 per cent. on the cost of const tion ; but as the average price obtained for the loans of the col was 96·28 per £100 of stock, the actual earnings of the railways can be taken at more than 3·64 per cent., while the interest charged outstanding loans is 3·71 per cent. Another point to be consid is that the sum of £1,000,000 was authorised by Parliament to ended in connection with the improvements to the grades on main s, and the quadrupling of the suburban system. The cost of these ent works was to be defrayed from the proceeds of loans, on the lerstanding that the loans should be redeemed from railway revenue the rate of £75,000 a year, and already £450,000 has been nominally eemed. This redemption has been effected at the expense of the eral revenue, seeing that in the years when the redemption was de there was not sufficient railway revenue to meet working expenses l interest, and there has, therefore, really been no reduction of capital cted by these payments.

The cost of railway construction in the principal countries of the rld for which figures are available, is given hereunder. The figures lude the whole expense of equipping the lines for traffic, and are ught down to the latest available dates:—

Countries.	Cost per Mile open for Traffic.	Countries.	Cost per Mile open for Traffic.
	£		£
United Kingdom	47,280	Australasia:—	
France	27,540	New South Wales...	14,157
Germany	20,409	Victoria	12,249
Switzerland	20,231	New Zealand	7,719
Norway	7,397	Queensland	7,180
Sweden	5,738	South Australia......	7,359
Canada	11,584	Tasmania...............	8,395
United States	11,536	Western Australia	4,494
Cape Colony	9,407		

New Lines and Revenue Returns.

The contrast between the present condition of the New South Wales lways and their humble beginning in 1855 is a remarkable one. In 56, the first year which can fairly be taken for purposes of comparison, e number of passengers on the railways was only 350,724, whilst the year ended June 30, 1897, the number was 22,672,924, or nearly times greater. But the tonnage of goods carried represents a very uch larger increase, having grown from 2,469 to 4,567,041 tons, or arly 1,850 times since the first full year of railway operations. Fo-

the first ten years of the period under review the larger part
railway earnings was obtained from the passenger traffic, no do
to the fact that the first railways were almost entirely suburb
was not until the line crossed the mountains and opened up
interior that the proportions changed, and the goods traffic bec
principal source of revenue of the railways. This change began
place in 1867.

The comparison between the earnings of the period prior to
when the net result every year represented only a small portio
interest due on the capital expended in the construction of the
and of the subsequent period, affords matter for satisfaction. The
for 1886 and 1887 show a falling off from those of the previous
years; but it should be borne in mind in comparing these tw
with the excellent results exhibited during the period from 1874
when an average of considerably over 4 per cent. was realised,
fall in receipts was due in a great measure to the previous
drought, and also to the uncertainty attaching to the land laws
had recently been materially altered.

During the years 1884 and 1885 the last section of the main
line, extending over a distance of 112 miles as far as Bour
opened, and the line branching off from Wallerawang was comp
far as Mudgee, the length being 85 miles. On the south-western
the branch line, Narrandera to Jerilderie, covering a distance
miles, was opened for traffic. All these extensions run throu
sparsely settled districts, and this was the case with regard t
the whole of the other 172 miles opened during the two years me
This total of 412 miles opened for traffic in unproductive
caused a serious falling off in the proportion of receipts to exp
during the period ended June, 1888, the net revenue yielding le
3 per cent. on the total expenditure. Since that time, desp
addition of further unprofitable lines to the system, the return
improved step by step, rising in the years 1891 and 1892 to 3·
3·58 per cent., and during the four years of depression ended 189
falling below 3·44 per cent., while in 1897 a return of 3·78 p
was obtained. As will be seen further on, the burden of unpr
lines continues to be heavy, the loss on 1,257 miles during t
ended 31st December, 1896, being no less than £357,093;
expenses of working are kept as low as possible. The fact t
lines as a whole in the past have not returned a profit should occa
surprise, as the statistics of railways in all parts of the world sh
few lines, except perhaps suburban ones, return anything like
during the first few years after their opening. In England a
of seven years has been allowed by good authorities for a line to
traffic; and if such is the fact in more densely-populated co
whose resources are more developed than is the case in New
Wales, there is every reason to be satisfied with the fact that t
of this colony have yielded so good a return as they have. Th

previously expressed, that under the present administration of the railways the deficiency would soon be met, has been borne out by the fact that the returns for the year ended June 30, 1897, show that the interest on cost of construction was covered, leaving a margin of £27,127, if the total cost of the lines open for traffic be taken into consideration.

A glance at the table showing the net earnings, and the interest on the capital expended upon railways, which will be found on page 557, will disclose the fact that during the period from 1870 to 1875, when the length of new lines yearly constructed was very small, being only 116 miles during the whole period of six years, or about 19⅓ miles per year, the railway profits steadily increased from 1·81 to 4·39 per cent. During 1877 and 1878, 180 miles of railway were constructed, and the profits immediately declined to 3·74 and 3·34 per cent. respectively. From 1880 to 1884 the railways were extended chiefly to centres already populous and prosperous, viz., Riverina and New England, and the central districts of Goulburn, Wellington, and Dubbo; and as these were years of remarkable prosperity, the railway profits suffered less than usual from the considerable extension, which included the construction of the expensive connecting-link joining the New South Wales railways with those of Victoria, at the river Murray. From 1885 the extensions on the main lines have, for the most part, been through pastoral country, such as the continuation of the western line to Bourke, the northern line to Wallangarra, and the further extensions of the lines in the Goulburn district to the rich pastoral lands of Monaro; while several branch lines were constructed tapping important agricultural and dairy-farming districts, notably the lines Cootamundra to Gundagai, Cootamundra to Temora, Murrumburrah to Blayney, Nyngan to Cobar, Culcairn to Corowa, and Sydney to Nowra. None of the lines mentioned yet pays its way, the loss on some being very heavy. There was also constructed an isolated line, 63¾ miles in length, from Lismore to the Tweed, which likewise shows a heavy loss on working. In some cases the value of the branch lines will not be felt until the entire system of which they form part is completed, or until they become trunk lines. For instance, in the case of the Goulburn to Cooma line, a proposal is under consideration for continuing this line to the Victorian border, with a branch line to Eden, Twofold Bay. It is expected that the Gippsland line will be extended from Bairnsdale to the border, and that by the junction of these two lines an alternative route to Melbourne will be obtained. In that case, no doubt, the eastern part of Gippsland would find its natural port at Eden. Expensive new lines result in an increase of the percentage of working expenses to the gross earnings, as these lines have to be kept in full working order and repair whilst actually returning in gross earnings little more than the cost of maintenance. The small returns on expensive incompleted branches further tend to diminish greatly the profits of a railway system taken as a whole; but such is the history of railway construction in all parts of the world, and New South Wales is no exception to the general rule.

Th [illegible] ıg table shows the loss on non-paying lines durin last [illegible] ndar years. It should be noted that the capital inclu [illegible] xpenditure on equipment as well as construction :—

ie.	Capital Cost.	Loss in Working, after providing Working Expenses and Interest.		
		1893.	1894.	1895.
	£	£	£	£
Goulburn to Cooma	1,462,111	45,107	43,096	43,453
Murrumburrah to Blayney	[illegible]	36,934	37,586	40,855
Cootamundra to Gundagai	[illegible]	6,763	6,474	5,628
Cootamundra to Temora	[illegible]	†983	1,943	3,137
Junee to Hay	[illegible]	19,122	17,563	Nil.
Narrandera to Jerilderie	[illegible]	14,806	14,305	10,701
Culcairn to Corowa	[illegible]	7,818	8,023	7,925
Sydney to Kiama	[illegible]	38,356	41,091	42,204
Kiama to Nowra	[illegible]	†13,106	12,968	12,634
Sydenham to Belmore	198,082	......*	......*	†7,518
Blacktown to Richmond	196,168	6,280	5,116	6,091
Wallerawang to Mudgee	1,042,817	30,097	28,514	29,704
Orange to Molong	287,421	6,890	3,750	4,732
Molong to Forbes	427,118	†2,386	2,228	1,149
Nyngan to Cobar	323,932	9,026	3,588	2,184
Hornsby to St. Leonards	594,289	9,950	20,183	20,184
St. Leonards to Milson's Point		†12,848		
Werris Creek to Tamworth	296,905	......‡	4,764	4,493
Tamworth to Armidale	1,214,546	......‡	31,786	34,907
Armidale to Jennings	1,539,946	63,540	63,847	64,683
Lismore to Murwillumbah	916,034	......*	†11,695	32,018
Total	14,349,994	324,012	358,520	374,200

* Not opened. † Opened for part of the year only. ‡ Not

Railway Commissioners in their annual report for 1891 suggested of paying for new lines from the sale of lands. They recommended e Crown lands for a distance of 10 miles on each side of a proposed railway should be set aside for sale, and half the proceeds of the old credited to the railway capital; and where the land required lway construction had passed into the hands of private individuals, nd-owners should combine and convey the necessary land free of the Government, it being considered that the owners would be emunerated for the gift of the land by the enhanced value of their ty caused by the establishment of direct railway communication the other parts of the colony. By the adoption of such a as this it is believed that railways in light undulating country be constructed at a moderate cost, and yield a fair return on l from the commencement, especially what are known as "Pioneer ays," which could be constructed at an average of about £1,750 ile, exclusive of bridges.

betterment system as applied to railways was first introduced construction of the Culcairn to Corowa Railway. No special as passed for the general establishment of this principle; but by iso in a clause of the Public Works Act the Government was ered to apply the principle to all railways constructed subt to the date of the passing of the Act. In estimating the ced value of the land adjoining the Culcairn to Corowa railway he stations were assumed to be 10 miles apart, the betterment aving a 5-mile radius from each station, and the land in the ty of each station being considered to have an enhanced value of cent., graduating to 5 per cent. at the limit of the radius. In se of the extension of the railway along the southern coast it is that the enhanced value does not reach so high a percentage, owing facilities which exist for the transport of produce by water.

GROSS EARNINGS AND WORKING EXPENSES.

gross amount of revenue derived from all sources connected with overnment railways in New South Wales during the year ended June, 1897, was £3,014,742, being an increase of £194,325 as compared with the preceding year. The working expenses were £1,601,218, 9,330 in excess of 1896; and the net earnings were £1,413,524— crease of £144,995 on the results obtained during the previous e months. The net earnings were, therefore, 46·8 per cent. of the arnings, as against 33·3 per cent. when the Commissioners took . The following table gives the gross earnings and the total working ses, with the proportion per cent. of the expenditure to the receipts.

It should be borne in mind that since the year 1887 the railway accounts have been made up to the 30th June in each year :—

Year.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Proportion of working expenses to gross earnings.	Year.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Proportion of working expenses to gross earnings.
	£	£	p. cent.		£	£	p. cent.
1855	9,249	5,959	64·4	1889	2,538,477	1,634,602	64·4
1860	62,269	50,427	81·0	1890	2,633,086	1,665,835	63·3
1865	166,032	108,926	65·6	1891	2,974,421	1,831,371	61·6
1870	307,142	206,003	67·1	1892	3,107,296	1,914,252	61·6
1875	614,648	296,174	48·2	1893	2,927,056	1,738,516	59·4
1880	1,161,017	647,719	55·8	1894	2,813,541	1,591,842	56·6
1885	2,174,368	1,458,153	67·1	1895	2,878,204	1,567,589	54·5
1886	2,160,070	1,492,992	69·1	1896	2,820,417	1,551,888	55·0
1887	2,208,295	1,457,760	66·0	1897	3,014,742	1,601,218	53·1
1888	2,295,124	1,530,551	66·7				

In the foregoing table will be found ample evidence of the economical working of the State railways under their present management, and this notwithstanding that the expenses per train mile run have increased. The explanation of this increase in the expense per train mile will be found in the fact that, although the business has increased, the management have contrived to reduce the mileage run, and have at the same time effected a thorough overhaul of the property in their hands. The distribution of expenses is shown below :—

Head of Expenditure.	1880.	1885.	1890.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Maintenance of way.........	11·40	15·71	15·39	12·63	10·91	10·57
Locomotive power	16·33	15·62	16·73	15·63	16·58	16·95
Repairs—carriages, waggons, etc.	2·47	2·65	4·59	4·13	4·67	4·51
Traffic charges	15·83	14·92	15·07	13·96	13·60	13·13
Compensation	0·50	0·30	0·97	1·05	0·47	0·09
General expenses	1·46	3·52	2·16	2·14	2·01	2·01
Total	47·99	52·72	54·91	49·54	48·24	47·26

The following table gives the percentage of earnings from the two sources of railway revenue. It will be observed that in the year 1860 the earnings from passenger traffic largely exceeded those from goods, but after that year the proportion derived from that source declined, reaching the minimum in 1875. This falling off was almost entirely due to the considerable extension of the main lines through pastoral

', thinly populated, but well stocked with sheep and cattle, and ıently furnishing the railway with large quantities of produce for ı to the seaboard. From 1880 to 1889, however, the percentage pts from passengers steadily advanced, the proportion in the year med being as high as 40·4 per cent. of the total revenue. For r ended 30th June, 1897, the passenger traffic contributed but r cent. of the total railway earnings :—

Percentage of—		Year.	Percentage of—	
Passenger Earnings to Total.	Goods Earnings to Total.		Passenger Earnings to Total.	Goods Earnings to Total.
73·0	27·0	1889	40·4	59·6
56·0	44·0	1890	40·2	59·8
38·4	61·6	1891	39·6	60·4
33·5	66·5	1892	38·3	61·7
33·6	66·4	1893	38·1	61·9
38·2	61·8	1894	37·2	62·8
39·3	60·7	1895	35·1	64·9
38·5	61·5	1896	37·0	63·0
40·1	59·9	1897	36·5	63·5

NET EARNINGS AND INTEREST ON CAPITAL.

net revenue for the year which expired on the 30th June, 1897, ,413,524, while the total amount of capital expended on lines in on to the same period was £37,369,205. The net return on the expended equalled 3·78 per cent.—a more satisfactory return than own in any of the preceding years since the Commissioners took nd 0·04 per cent. above the average interest payable on the public ıd only 0·09 per cent. below, if the actual price received for stock n. The following table shows the net earnings and the interest d on the total capital expended on railways, including the cost of ›nstruction and equipment, for the year 1855 and subsequent :—

Net Earnings.	Interest on Capital.	Year.	Net Earnings.	Interest on Capital.
£	per cent.		£	per cent.
3,290	0·63	1889	903,875	3·14
11,842	0·83	1890	967,251	3·17
57,106	2·07	1891	1,143,050	3·59
101,139	1·81	1892	1,193,044	3·58
318,474	4·39	1893	1,188,540	3·48
513,298	4·35	1894	1,221,699	3·46
716,215	3·37	1895	1,310,615	3·60
667,078	2·90	1896	1,268,529	3·44
750,535	2·96	1897	1,413,524	3·78
764,573	2·85			

Tw ınt facts which demonstrate the financial position of
railw the character of the management are the earnings
train per average mile open. Although the returns now b
realis ; be compared with those of 1875, when the net earni
per tı ue fell little short of 52d., and per mile open £775,
presen ıings are in every way encouraging. Under the com
of the missioners the net return per train mile has increased f
27·4d. to ·7d., or 52·2 per cent.; while per mile of line open for tr
the adva as been from £374 to £548·9, or 46·8 per cent.
followi able gives details of the net earnings since 1860:—

Year.	Net Earnings per—		Year.	Net Earnings per—	
	Train Mile Run.			Train Mile Run.	Average Mile Open.
	d.			d.	£
1860	15·9		1889	28·4	424·7
1865	28·3		1890	29·0	444·3
1870	26·9		1891	32·6	523·8
1875	51·9		1892	34·3	546·6
1880	38·0		1893	38·0	513·2
1885	25·9		1894	40·9	503·3
1886	24·7		1895	41·4	520·9
1887	27·8		1896	39·5	501·2
1888	27·4		1897	41·7	548·9

I ıER TRAFFIC.

The number of journeys made by each person in the colony averages 17·2 per annum, as against 7·5 in 1880 and 1·6 in 1870. increase has been exceedingly rapid as well as fairly uniform, as wi seen from the following table:—

Year.	Number of Journeys.	Year.	Number of Journeys.
1855	0·4	1889	15·3
1860	1·6	1890	15·8
1865	1·9	1891	17·0
1870	1·6	1892	17·1
1875	2·3	1893	16·6
1880	7·5	1894	15·7
1885	14·6	1895	15·8
1886	15·4	1896	16·3
1887	14·4	1897	17·2
1888	14·9		

The figures just given include journeys of season ticket excluding this traffic, the number of journeys per head would 10·5, a number larger than the average of any of the adj Victoria excepted. The average number of journeys tants of the United Kingdom is 24·8—a figure which largely s that of any other population. With this exception, railway ing is more common in Victoria, Western Australia, and New Wales than in any other country. The averages of some of the important places are:—Belgium, 16·0; France, 8·8; Germany, United States, 9·3; Austria-Hungary, 3·1; Russia, 0·5; Norway, weden, 3·4; Switzerland, 15·4; Netherlands, 5·6; Spain, 1·8; 1·6; South Australia, 16·1; Queensland, 5·6; Western Australia, New Zealand, 6·2; and Tasmania, 3·3. For Victoria the average down at 35·9; but this figure is obtained by reckoning a passenger or each of several sections passed over in the course of the same y, and is useless, therefore, for purposes of comparison. The total r of journeys made by passengers, including season ticket-holders, venue received from the passenger traffic, and the average receipts urney, are shown in the next table, which should be read in con- on with that just given:—

Year.	Passenger journeys.	Receipts from Passenger Traffic.	Average Receipts per journey.
	No.	£	d.
1855	98,846	9,093	22·08
1860	551,044	45,428	19·79
1865	751,587	92,984	29·69
1870	776,707	117,854	36·42
1875	1,288,225	205,941	38·37
1880	5,440,138	390,149	17·21
1885	13,506,346	830,904	14·76
1886	14,881,604	849,253	13·70
1887	14,451,303	850,499	14·12
1888	15,174,115	918,975	14·53
1889	16,086,223	1,025,601	15·30
1890	17,071,945	1,059,791	14·90
1891	19,037,760	1,177,037	14·84
1892	19,918,916	1,189,231	14·33
1893	19,932,703	1,115,042	13·43
1894	19,265,732	1,047,029	13·04
1895	19,725,418	1,022,901	12·45
1896	21,005,048	1,043,922	11·93
1897	22,672,924	1,098,696	11·19

vill be seen that 1897 shows a far larger number of passenger ys than preceding years, but a less satisfactory result in the way eipts. This does not so much arise from curtailment of long- ce travelling as from the change of a large body of travellers from second class—a result due to diminished means. A return to rous times will show an increase in first-class travellers, but it ntly happens that the removal of the original impelling cause is llowed by a return to previous habits, so that the railways may ue to suffer in revenue even when the original cause of the ng has disappeared.

The traffic on the suburban lines, which comprise only distances wi 20 miles of Sydney and Newcastle, Liverpool and Morpeth included enormously increased of late years. In the following table a compar is instituted between the traffic for the years ended 30th June, 1 1896, and 1897:—

Suburban Traffic.	1891.	1896.	189
Number of ordinary passengers	9,384,425	10,635,753	11,32
,, workmen's journeys	2,422,644	3,306,996	4,00
,, season ticket holders' journeys	4,127,192	4,608,828	4,827
Total passenger journeys	15,934,261	18,551,577	20,151
Number of miles travelled	89,270,546	104,310,788	115,059
Average mileage per passenger	5·61	5·62	
Amount received from passengers	£252,271	£252,025	£264
Average receipts per mile, per passenger	0·68d.	0·58d.	0

The average receipts from passenger traffic per head of popul advanced very rapidly until 1891, when the amount stood at 20s. 11 against 10s. 8·5d. in 1880, and 4s. 9·7d. in 1870. This was not so much to the increased distance travelled by passengers as to the that the railway mileage increased at a greater rate than the popula enabling the public to indulge in a larger measure of railway travel in accordance with the well-established rule that the more facilitie travelling are extended, the greater will be the traffic. Since 1891 average has lessened and now stands at 16s. 11·2d. In this connec it may be interesting to note that the fares charged on the subu lines, over which the majority of passengers travel, are very much for both classes of travellers than the English rates, although the co working is very much higher. The receipts from passenger traffic head of the population will be found in the following figures:—

Year.	Amount per head.	Year.	Amount per head.
	s. d.		s. d.
1860	2 7·8	1889	19 6·2
1865	4 7·8	1890	19 7·1
1870	4 9·7	1891	20 11·8
1875	7 10·2	1892	20 4·9
1880	10 8·5	1893	18 7·4
1885	17 11·1	1894	17 1·4
1886	17 6·2	1895	16 4·2
1887	16 11·1	1896	16 4·1
1888	18 0·2	1897	16 11·2

Goods Traffic.

veight of goods carried per head of population in New South
ompares favourably with that of many countries where rail-
ve long been established. The average tonnage for 1860 and
ent periods was :—

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1860	0·2	1889	3·3
1865	1·2	1890	3·5
1870	1·6	1891	3·4
1875	2·2	1892	3·7
1880	2·4	1893	3·2
1885	3·5	1894	2·9
1886	3·3	1895	3·3
1887	3·3	1896	3·1
1888	3·3	1897	3·5

argest amount of tonnage per inhabitant is in the United States.
t averages 10·8 ; the lowest European country is Italy, with only
per head. The relative position of New South Wales will be
m the next table, which shows the tonnage of merchandise
per head of population in the principal countries of the world :—

	Tons.		Tons.
ted States	10·8	Russia	0·7
ted Kingdom	9·0	Spain	0·6
ium	7·8	Italy	0·5
many	4·9	Australasia—	
ada	4·2	New South Wales	3·5
tzerland	3·7	Victoria	2·03
tria-Hungary	2·7	Queensland	2·6
den	2·8	South Australia	3·2
nce	2·6	Western Australia	6·2
herlands	2·1	Tasmania	1·4
way	0·8	New Zealand	3·4

The following figures, which extend as far back as the first ope of the lines, show how greatly the goods traffic has expanded, espec in recent years:—

Year.	Tonnage of Goods.	Earnings.	Year.	Tonnage of Goods.	Earnings.
		£			£
1855	140	156	1889	3,485,839	1,512,876
1860	55,394	16,841	1890	3,788,950	1,573,295
1865	416,707	73,048	1891	3,802,849	1,797,384
1870	766,523	189,288	1892	4,296,713	1,918,065
1875	1,171,354	408,707	1893	3,773,843	1,812,014
1880	1,712,971	770,868	1894	3,493,919	1,766,512
1885	3,273,004	1,343,464	1895	4,075,093	1,855,303
1886	3,218,582	1,310,817	1896	3,953,575	1,776,495
1887	3,339,253	1,357,796	1897	4,567,041	1,916,046
1888	3,399,772	1,376,149			

It is unfortunately impossible to subdivide the tonnage of goods given for 1896–7 into anything approaching a general classification, this can be done for the year which closed with December, 1896. the statement here given, which relates to the year in question, wil found particulars of the tonnage under eight broad classes, the aver distance goods of each class were carried, and the average earnings ton per mile. This last figure, however, does not include the term charges, which would probably increase the revenue per ton per by about ·20d., or from 1·44d. to 1·64d. The "Miscellaneous an class" comprises timber, lime, manures, fruit, vegetables, hides, tob leaf, bricks, gravel, drain-pipes, and traffic of a similar nature.

Description of Traffic.	Tons carried.	Average number of miles each ton of traffic is carried.	Earn per t mi
Coal	2,573,590	17·47	0·
Firewood	191,205	26·35	0·
Grain, flour, etc.	264,516	141·05	0·
Hay, straw, and chaff	87,577	182·09	0·
Miscellaneous and A class	293,171	66·54	0·
Wool	110,844	271·34	2·
Live stock	168,472	268·79	1·
General merchandise and other traffic not classified	484,505	118·66	2·
	4,173,880	61·24	1·
Terminal charges	....	....	0·
Total	4,173,880	61·24	1·

e statement which is given below shows the receipts for carrying one mile along the lines of the colony. The information reaches to 1872, when the charge was 3·6d., while after an interval of y-three years it had fallen to 1·6d. The decrease, however, is to extent more apparent than real, inasmuch as it represents a more sive development of the mineral trade than of the carriage of general andise; but when due allowance has been made on this score, it e found that the benefit to the general producer and consumer has very substantial :—

1872	3·6d.	1883	2·0d.
1873	3·3d.	1884	1·9d.
1874	3·0d.	1885	1·9d.
1875	3·1d.	1886	1·8d.
1876	2·8d.	1887	1·8d.
1877	2·7d.	1891	1·9d.
1878	2·4d.	1892	1·8d.
1879	2·3d.	1893	1·8d.
1880	2·3d.	1894	1·8d.
1881	2·3d.	1895	1·6d.
1882	2·1d.	1896	1·6d.

e figures just given should not be too strongly relied upon in aring one year with another; but they may safely be taken as ting generally the lessened cost of carriage to persons forwarding by rail. The reduction is most noticeable in regard to agricultural ce and live stock.

ring the year ended 30th June, 1895, some important reductions made in the rates for the conveyance of goods and live stock. The for cattle were lowered to the scale of charges applicable to sheep, practically a reduction of 20 per cent. In March a general on of the goods classification was made, by which many articles placed in lower classes. The rates for coal in the Newcastle ct, and from the western mines to Sydney and district, were also ly reduced. By a revision of the wool tariff, the anomaly of ing higher rates from stations nearer to Sydney and Newcastle from others at longer distances on the same line, but which ffected by the interior river and other competition, was entirely ved. In April, 1896, a general reclassification of goods came into , by which a large number of articles were reduced to lower s. Further reductions were made at the same time in the rates e carriage of agricultural produce over long distances. The rates gricultural implements forwarded in 5-ton truck loads were ed by 50 per cent. and for small consignments by 20 per cent. sist the mining industry, the rates for explosives and mining inery were also reduced, the latter by 50 per cent.

e revenue from goods traffic per inhabitant rose rapidly from the ing of the lines until the year 1883, when it stood at 30s. 4d., at h figure it remained in 1884. The unfavourable seasons experienced g the subsequent years greatly affected the traffic, and the revenue in 1888 had fallen to 27s. per inhabitant. For a number of y afterwards there was a steady increase, and in 1892 the amount st at 32s. 11d.—the highest figure yet attained; in 1894, however, i had decreased to 28s. 10d., but in 1895 the amount rose to 29s. In 1896, owing chiefly to the diminished wool traffic, and partly to the Newcastle strike, the amount fell to 27s. 10d. During 1 the amount again rose to 29s. 7d. The results achieved must be garded as very satisfactory, especially in face of the general reduct in the freights :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1860	0 0 11·8	1889	1 8 9·4
1865	0 3 7·8	1890	1 9 1·0
1870	0 7 8·7	1891	1 12 0·5
1875	0 13 11·8	1892	1 12 11·0
1880	1 1 1·9	1893	1 10 3·1
1885	1 8 11·7	1894	1 8 10·6
1886	1 7 0·5	1895	1 9 7·8
1887	1 7 0·3	1896	1 7 9·6
1888	1 6 11·7	1897	1 9 7·1

The rolling stock of the New South Wales railways, on the 3 June, 1897, consisted of 502 engines, 420 tenders, 1,026 coaching st 9,455 goods vehicles, and 1,048 stock for departmental use only, mak a total of 12,451 stock, and showing a decrease of 19 locomotives, tenders, 6 coaching stock, 12 departmental stock, and 70 merchan stock, on the figures for the previous year. Despite these decreases, h ever, the total traction power and carrying capacity have been incre The number of engine miles run was 11,614,964, while the train m numbered only 8,130,405.

During the year ended June, 1897, the wages paid by the Rail Department amounted to £1,092,511 as against £1,022,309 in previous year. Of the former sum, the Maintenance Branch t £362,611, and the Locomotive Branch £493,267, while the Tr Branch absorbed £236,633. Additions and improvements to stati buildings, siding accommodation, etc., and rolling stock during the y cost £119,207, which was charged to capital account.

Compensation for personal injury was paid during the twelve mo to the amount of £1,284, and for damage to and loss of goods, £1,6 consequence of the heavy claims made in connection with the accident .ch occurred at Redfern Station on the 31st October, 1894, the ernment has passed an Act limiting the amount recoverable from Railway Commissioners in connection with injuries sustained by any person to £2,000.

The cost of fuel is, naturally, a large item in the railway accounts. : the last working year the expenditure on coal, coke, and wood alled £71,763. The coal consumed on the locomotives amounted to ,299 tons, or an average of ·72 cwt. per train mile.

There were altogether 10,357 persons employed on the railways of the ony on the 30th June, 1897, of which number 1,220 comprised the aried staff, and 9,137 were on wages. For the previous year the al number was 9,745, of whom 1,229 were on salary and 8,516 on ges.

The management of the State railways of New South Wales was in hands of a single Commissioner, under the Secretary for Public orks, up to the month of October, 1888. At that date the service s transferred to the department of the Colonial Treasurer, and the ual administration of the railways was entrusted to three Commissioners, to whom were given very extensive powers, amounting in fact almost independent control. The change was made with the view securing economic management of the lines, free from political erference.

PRIVATE RAILWAY LINES.

In New South Wales the established policy has hitherto been to keep railways under State management and control, and at the present e there are only four private lines in operation, with the exception short lines to connect coal-mines with the main railways, etc. The rliament granted permission to a company to construct a line from niliquin, in the centre of the Riverina district, to Moama, on the urray, where it meets the railway system of Victoria. A considerable portion of the wool and other produce of Riverina reaches the elbourne market by this route. The line is 45 miles in length, and s constructed under a special Act of Parliament, assented to on the d March, 1874. The land required was granted by the New South ales Government, right being reserved for the purchase of the line at y time after twenty-one years from the passing of the Act. The tal capital expended is £162,672, £40,000 of which was raised by bentures—£31,300 now outstanding—and there is a reserve fund of 14,187. The dividends formerly paid averaged 10 per cent., but the test dividend declared was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. During e year 1888 a line, 35 miles 54 chains in length, was laid down from e Barrier silver mines, Silverton, and Broken Hill to the South Aus-alian border. The total capital expended is £341,765, of which £80,000 was raised by debentures, and there is a reserve fund of £40,000. line since its inception has had large support. In 1891 the large divi of 70 per cent. was declared. The latest dividend declared was a rate of 50 per cent. on paid-up capital. A short line connects (with the Rosehill Racecourse, and another joins Liverpool wit Warwick Farm Racecourse. The following table shows the opera of these lines during the year 1896 :—

Name.	Line.		Total Capital Expended.	Reserve Fund.	Debentures Outstanding.	Passengers Carried.	Goods Carried.	Live Stock Carried.
	Length.	Gauge.						
	m. ch.	ft. in.	£	£	£	No.	Tons.	No.
Deniliquin and Moama	45 0	5 3	162,672	14,187	31,300	13,617	21,343	136,280
Silverton	35 54	3 6	341,765	40,000	Nil.	48,649	540,798	17,765
Clyde to Rosehill ..	3 6	4 8½	48,000	Nil.	Nil.	24,258	2,322	[illegible]
Warwick Farm ..	0 60	4 8½	5,700	..	..	18,716	Nil.	Nil.

The Deniliquin and Moama Company possesses 4 locomotiv passenger carriages, and 63 goods carriages and vans ; and the Silv Company has 15 locomotives, 17 passenger carriages, and 600 vehicles. On the Rosehill and Warwick Farm lines Government ro stock is used.

Authority was obtained during 1893 for the construction of private lines, namely, from Menindie to Broken Hill, in the W district, and from Rosehill to Dural (Simpson's), in the Parra district. Three miles 28 chains of the latter line have been constr but not yet opened for traffic.

Railway Accidents.

The railways of the colony have been as free from accidents serious character as the lines of most other countries. In order to a common basis of comparison it is usual to find the proportion whi number of persons killed or injured bears to the total passengers ca There is, however, no necessary connection between the two, fo obvious that accidents may occur on lines chiefly devoted to goods t and a more reasonable basis would be the accidents to passenger compared with the number of passengers carried. The data from such a comparison could be made are wanting for some countrie far as the figures can be given, however, they are shown in the foll

ch exhibits the number of passengers killed and injured per rsons carried. The figures are calculated over a series of brought down to the latest possible dates :—

tries.	Average per million passengers carried. Killed.	Average per million passengers carried. Injured.	Countries.	Average per million passengers carried. Killed.	Average per million passengers carried. Injured.
....	0·1	0·4	Russia	0·6	2·5
ngary	0·1	1·2	United Kingdom ...	0·1	1·6
....	0·3	2·0	Spain	0·8	4·1
....	0·1	0·2	Canada	1·0	3·9
....	0·2	1·0	New South Wales ..	0·1	3·6
....	0·3	2·0	Victoria	0·1	3·2
....	0·1	0·1	South Australia	0·4	0·8
....	0·1	0·3	New Zealand	0·3	3·3
l	0·1	1·0			

ove mode of comparison is not, however, a perfect one as the· of the distance travelled by each passenger is an important f the risk run, and is omitted from consideration. If this were ctor of the comparative statement, it would probably be found risk of each traveller by rail would show less variation in the countries than would seem to be the case from the figures just

rsons meeting with accidents on railway lines may be grouped ee heads—passengers, servants of the railways, and trespassers; ccidents themselves may be classified into those arising from yond the control of the person injured, and those due to mis- r want of caution. Adopting these classifications, the accidents ew South Wales Railways during the year ended June 30, e as follow :—

arising.	Passengers. Killed.	Passengers. Injured.	Railway Employés. Killed.	Railway Employés. Injured.	Trespassers, etc. Killed.	Trespassers, etc. Injured.	Total. Killed.	Total. Injured.
es beyond rol	...	19	...	2	...	...	...	21
isconduct caution...	2	31	8	76	15	7	25	114
....	2	50	8	78	15	7	25	135

igures, while approximating to those of 1895–6, show a large rom those for 1894-5, the accident which occurred at Redfern n October, 1894, being alone responsible for 13 killed and 30

urns of the railways of the United Kingdom show that during 1896 the number of persons killed was 1,008, and of persons injured, 5,877. The passengers killed and injured numbered 93 1,586 respectively, or 0·1 and 1·6 per million passengers carried; railway employés were killed, and 3,986 were injured; there were cases of suicide; and the other persons killed and injured were passers and persons who were crossing the lines.

In the following statement particulars regarding accidents on lines of the colony are given for ten years:—

Year.	Passengers.		Railway Employés.		Trespassers, etc.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
1887	10	90	16	17	12	5	38	112
1888-89	3	38	16	27	12	9	31	74
1889-90	6	53	22	103	27	20	55	176
1890-91	7	42	32	114	21	14	60	170
1891-92	17	58	26	163	7	7	50	228
1892-93	7	47	10	87	11	5	28	139
1893-94	8	33	7	93	13	18	28	144
1894-95	16	77	17	70	9	13	42	160
1895-96	5	27	9	83	11	8	25	118
1896-97	2	50	8	78	15	7	25	135
Total	81	515	163	835	138	106	382	1,456

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS TRAFFIC.

Within the Metropolis of Sydney the public traffic, with the exce tion of the tramway system, is controlled by four Transit Commissioner comprising the Mayor of Sydney, the Inspector-General of Police. representative elected by the Aldermen of Suburban Municipaliti and one by the holders of licenses under the Commissioners. Th tramways, like the railways, are the property of the Governmen and are under the control of the Commissioners for Railways. The were in the year ended June, 1897, five distinct systems of tramways i operation, consisting of the Metropolitan and the Ashfield to Enfield line measuring together 42 miles; the North Sydney cable tramway, miles; the North Sydney (Military Road) electric tramway, 3½ mile the King-street to Ocean-street cable tramway, 2½ miles; and the Ne castle to Plattsburg Tramway (including Merewether and Tighe's Hi sections), 12 miles; giving a total of about 62 miles of lines in The Campbelltown and Camden line, 7½ miles, and the Kogarah an Sans Souci line, 5 miles, formerly classed as tramways, are no included under the head of railways.

The metropolitan tramways may fairly be regarded as street ways, and they are worked by locomotives of a special constructio A cable tramway was inaugurated at North Sydney some years a line of a similar class, extending from the heart of Sydney to the urb of Woollahra, *via* William-street, was completed in 1894, and ned on the 19th September in that year. The electric system was tried short line joining the Waverley and Randwick tram-lines, but proved economical than steam power, and accordingly was abandoned in ril, 1892, in favour of steam. The electric plant has been transferred tramway constructed along the Military Road, North Sydney, and ned in September, 1893. On the 1st March, 1897, an extension of electric tramway from the terminus on the Military Road to the y at Mosman's Bay was opened to traffic. A bill was passed in 1896 the construction of an electric tramway from Circular Quay, along rge-street, to the Redfern Railway Station; and it is intended to struct another electric tramway from the terminus of the cable tram- , at Falcon-street, North Sydney, to the village of Willoughby.

he net return on tramway capital has varied greatly from year to r. The favourable results of the first four years encouraged the ef that the metropolitan tramways would prove a source of increase he general revenue of the colony; but these anticipations were not lised during the next seven years, and it was not until 1890 that the earnings exceeded the rate of interest payable on the money rowed for the construction of these works. The following table s some interesting particulars respecting the metropolitan tram- s, exclusive of the King-street to Ocean-street cable tramway and North Sydney cable and electric tramways. In the year 1879 the ways were open for only three and a half months, and for part of t time were worked by horse power. The accounts since 1887, like e relating to the railways, have been made up to the 30th June in h year:—

r.	Length of Line.	Tram Mileage.	Total Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Earnings per Tram Mile.	Working cost per Tram Mile.	Proportion of working cost to gross earnings.	Net Earnings.	Capital invested in Lines open.	Interest on Capital.
	miles.		£	£	d.	d.	p. cent.	£	£	per cent.
	1½	13,270	4,416	2,278	79·87	41·19	51·59	2,138	22,269	33·00
	8	84,074	18,980	13,444	54·18	38·38	70·83	5,536	60,218	12·34
	9⅝	296,906	62,549	52,107	50·56	42·12	83·31	10,442	169,450	6·16
	22	670,649	126,202	103,136	45·16	36·91	81·72	23,066	412,561	6·80
	25	1,076,096	190,699	178,877	42·53	39·89	93·80	11,822	544,105	2·22
	27¼	1,242,491	219,942	215,167	42·48	41·56	97·83	4,775	643,111	0·76
	27¼	1,220,500	223,340	207,995	43·91	40·90	93·13	15,345	708,109	2·17
	27¼	1,222,943	226,367	201,737	44·42	39·59	89·12	24,630	742,113	3·32
	29¾	1,220,026	214,125	201,468	42·12	39·63	94·08	12,657	731,582	1·76
	29¾	1,246,543	221,060	204,227	42·56	39·32	92·38	16,833	742,555	2·27
	29¾	1,338,286	225,833	206,092	40·49	36·95	91·25	19,741	771,255	2·56
	30¾	1,474,646	249,508	207,517	40·60	36·46	83·17	41,991	790,555	5·31
	33¼	1,553,048	270,365	221,505	41·78	34·23	81·92	48,860	857,455	5·74
	37	1,613,443	279,321	229,145	41·55	34·09	82·04	50,176	932,907	5·54
	38	1,681,232	271,041	214,824	38·69	30·67	79·26	56,217	947,775	5·94
	40¾	1,737,846	250,809	206,554	34·64	28·53	82·35	44,255	954,035	4·64
	40¾	1,740,235	230,583	186,081	31·80	25·66	80·70	44,502	962,037	4·62
	40¾	1,845,626	227,525	187,811	29·59	24·42	82·54	39,714	961,778	4·13
	40¾	2,121,017	238,023	195,142	26·93	22·08	81·98	42,881	968,925	4·42

The fares paid on the tramways average about 1d. per mile, the lines being divided into sections of about 1 and 2 miles. The number of persons using the tram-cars has not been ascertained with any exactness, as the tickets collected give only a partial indication of the number travelling. It is believed that the fares paid by passengers average 3d. a journey, so that the number of journeys in the year ended 30th June, 1897, reached the enormous total of 18,019,913, or about 44 for every person living in the metropolitan area. Cash fares in lieu of tickets are allowed, although this system does not largely prevail, as an extra fee is charged when money is tendered.

The following table shows the total and average cost of the various sections of the metropolitan steam tramways open on the 30th June, 1897:—

Section.		Length.		Total Cost.	Cost per mile.
		ms.	chs.	£	£
Railway Station to Bridge-street		1	59	96,520	55,551
Liverpool-street to Randwick and Coogee		5	9	113,955	22,289
Darlinghurst Junction to Waverley and Woollahra		4	40	60,360	13,413
Waverley to Bondi Beach		2	8	38,604	18,383
Waverley to Randwick		1	30	11,182	8,132
Crown-street Junction to Cleveland-street		0	69	17,551	20,349
Railway Station to Glebe and Forest Lodge		2	25	44,888	19,411
Newtown and Parramatta-street Junction to Dulwich Hill		4	7	63,793	15,607
Forest Lodge Junction to Leichhardt, Five Dock, and Abbotsford		6	57	61,409	9,148
Railway Station Junction to Botany		6	66	90,787	13,302
Forest Lodge to Gladstone Park, Balmain		2	66	28,682	10,153
Newtown Bridge to St. Peters		0	63	13,092	16,625
Redfern to Moore Park		1	6	18,582	17,286
Cost of construction		40	25	659,405	16,357
Equipment :—					
Tramway workshops	£55,261				
Rolling stock	239,804				
Machinery	12,342				
Furniture	2,113				
		......		309,520	......
Total or average		40	25	968,925	24,035

The cost of construction and equipment of the Ashfield to Enfield line, which was opened on 23rd September, 1891, was £16,371. For the year ended June, 1897, the revenue amounted to £1,107, and the working expenses to £1,764, showing a loss of £657 in connection with actual working, or of £1,230 if the interest on capital be taken into consideration. The number of passenger fares collected was 265,

The revenue of the North Sydney cable line was £12,343, and expenses £10,170. The net receipts, therefore, amounted to £2,

8 per cent. upon £115,471, the total cost of the line and its
ent. The number of passenger fares collected was 2,962,298.

North Shore electric tramway yielded a revenue of £3,537; and
rking expenditure totalled £3,289, or within £248 of the gross
s. The loss on the working of the line was £1,111. The number
senger fares collected was 848,782. The cost of construction of
e amounted to £36,844.

the King-street to Ocean-street cable tramway the receipts
ted to £30,241, and the working expenses were £20,969, leaving
eturn of £9,272, or 5·22 per cent. upon £117,421, the total cost of
e and its equipment. The number of passenger fares collected
256,741.

Newcastle to Plattsburg tramway line and contingent sections
l a gross revenue of £21,444, while the working expenses totalled
47, so that the net receipts for the year came to £3,897. The cost
struction and equipment was £137,638, so that the net return was
er cent. upon the capital invested, as against 1·72 per cent. in the
us year. The number of passenger fares collected was 5,150,475.
he following table are given the revenue and expenditure on and
pital invested in all State tramways since their inception in 1879.
mden to Campbelltown tramway was placed among the railways
1888, and the Kogarah-Sans Souci line was similarly dealt with
9:—

Total Length of Lines.	Capital Expended.			Value of Fares received.	Total Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.
	On Lines open for Traffic.	On Extensions not opened.	Total.				
Miles.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1½	22,061	....	22,061	4,416	4,416	2,278	2,138
4½	60,218	1,683	61,901	18,968	18,980	13,444	5,536
11¾	181,659	38,659	220,318	61,921	62,549	52,107	10,442
29¼	447,939	10,206	458,145	127,124	128,354	120,181	8,173
32½	579,439	104,686	684,125	190,209	193,929	183,218	10,711
35	683,179	106,320	789,499	218,885	223,454	215,086	8,368
35	748,506	142,217	890,723	220,332	227,144	207,898	19,246
38½	854,260	131,342	985,602	230,374	234,143	207,635	26,508
51	917,995	105,640	1,023,635	225,764	229,772	211,722	18,050
43½	907,907	106,757	1,014,664	241,838	241,838	217,629	24,209
38¾	909,595	107,333	1,016,928	243,563	243,563	221,835	21,728
39¾	933,614	87,194	1,020,808	262,835	268,962	224,073	44,889
42½	1,004,212	35,866	1,040,078	292,490	292,850	239,679	53,171
48	1,099,659	28,946	1,128,605	304,899	305,090	248,591	56,499
49	1,118,471	94,590	1,213,061	295,352	295,367	233,808	61,559
58¾	1,248,986	79,923	1,328,909	278,185	278,194	229,283	48,911
61	1,428,518	....	1,428,518	282,316	282,316	230,993	51,323
61	1,434,896	....	1,434,896	289,181	289,181	236,283	52,898
62½	1,452,670	....	1,452,670	306,695	306,695	248,881	57,814

ing the year ended June, 1897, the total amount of wages paid
Tramway Department was £173,308, as against £165,100 in
evious year, and £165,181 in 1894–5. Of the sum of £173,308,
84 was paid to the Maintenance Branch, £99,430 to the
tive Branch, and £44,894 to the Traffic Branch.

The n [illegible] of men employed was 1,454, as against 1,347 in 1895-6 1,292 in [illegible] evious year. The salaried staff numbered 55, and 1 were on w [illegible] Taking railways and tramways together, the numb persons e [illegible] yed was 11,801, of whom 1,275 were on the salaried and 10,5 [illegible] re on wages. To the latter the sum of £1,265,819 wa as wages during the year, being £1,092,511 for services on the railw and £173,308 for the performance of work on the tramways. payments for wages in 1895–6 were:—Railways, £1,022,309; tramw £165,100; total, £1,187,409. In the preceding year the wages wer railways, £959,920; tramways, £165,181; total, £1,125,101. average number of working days for the workshop staff for the ended June, 1897, was 311, as against 309¼ for the previous year 275 for 1894–5; and the r [illegible] man on the wages staff—railw and tramways—averaged £11 [illegible] 2d. for the twelve months.

Any statement as to the nun [illegible] persons injured on the tram of the city compared with the [illegible] umber of persons carried, mus taken as approximate, as the latter [illegible] s not definitely known. A re of the accidents which occurred d [illegible] g the year ended 30th June, 1 shows them to have been 18 in [illegible] mber, of which 9 were fatal, 9 were cases of injury. There was [illegible] fatal accident, and 2 cases of fatal accident, to passengers. On [illegible] vant of the Department was kil Fourteen accidents in connecti [illegible] ith trams occurred to persons were neither passengers nor employés, 7 of which were fatal, and 7 fatal.

The number of passengers carried on the tramways during the ended 30th June, 1897, was about 36,000,000, which would give the of fatal accidents to passengers as 0·028 per million, and of non-f accidents as 0·056 per million. Seeing that the tramways for a g part of their course traverse crowded streets, the number of fatal non-fatal accidents—7 and 7 respectively—to persons who were neit passengers nor employés must be considered very small.

PRIVATE TRAMWAYS.

There are two tramways under private control within the Me politan area. One of these branches from the Illawarra Line Rockdale and runs down to Lady Robinson's Beach, a distance c mile, being chiefly used by excursionists visiting the shores of Bot Bay. The line was constructed in 1885. The second line pa through the township of Parramatta. It commences at the Park G and continues as far as the Newington Wharf at Duck Rive distance of 3 miles, where it connects with the Parramatta R steamers conveying passengers and goods to and from Sydney. line was laid down in 1883. A private tramway 2¾ miles in was opened in 1891 from Fassifern to Toronto, on Lake Macq

A private line was some time ago constructed at North Syd purpose of connecting the cable tramway on the heights o with the village of Gordon. On this line a magnificent su s been built, the only one of its kind in the colony. It is designed three spans—one of 500 ft., and two end spans each of 150 ft., with altitude of 180 ft. above water level. The tramway was, however, t quite completed, and has never been opened for traffic.

A Bill was passed in 1896 authorising the construction of a private mway, 21 miles in length, to connect with the Government railway ar Capertee on the line from Wallerawang to Mudgee.

OMNIBUSES, CABS, AND WAGGONETTES.

In addition to the tramways, the citizens of Sydney are well pro- led with means of travelling within the city and suburban limits, as re are numerous omnibus and cab proprietaries. The traffic employs ittle over 8,900 horses and, including the licensed drivers, some 00 men.

The number of cabs registered and licensed by the Transit Commissioners der the Municipal by-laws is 1,066, in addition to which there are 1,355 nibuses and waggonettes, and 571 drays and vans. The public interest secured against exaggerated demands on the part of licensed cabmen d other drivers of public vehicles by a system of fares fixed on a le liberal to the licensee, whilst not too high for the public to fairly y. The drivers are placed under the direct control of the Transit mmissioners, who have power to obtain redress from the owners of e vehicles, should any just complaints be made against them. The llowing shows the number of vehicles of each class licensed during e year 1896, and the number of registered drivers:—

Description.	Vehicles.	License Fees.	Drivers, etc.	License Fees.
	No.	£	No.	£
Omnibuses	339	1,665	*589	205
Waggonettes	16	63		
Cabs	1,066	1,565	1,312	480
Drays and vans	571	539	592	148
Total	1,992	3,832	2,493	833

* Includes 61 conductors.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

In the matter of postal and telegraphic communication the colony of ew South Wales is liberally provided for. Not only is the intercolonial legraphic system fairly perfect, but the colony is in direct communication with Europe and the outer world by means of the cables nnecting with the various Asiatic continental telegraph lines. A bmarine cable also connects the colony with New Zealand, and s its Australian terminus within sight of the spot where Captain ok landed on the shores of Botany Bay, and within a stone's throw the monument erected to the memory of La Pérouse—the unfortunate

and gallant emulator of the great English navigator—and the
Père Le Receveur, the botanist attached to his staff.

The history of the Postal Department of New South Wales is
ing as affording a striking illustration of the manner in wh
small beginnings have led to great results. For the first twe
years of the colony's existence there were neither regular post-o
means of postal communication. The first post-office was establ
Governor Macquarie in the year 1810, Mr. Isaac Nichols being a
Postmaster. The office was in High-street (now known as Georg
at the residence of Mr. Nichols, who was, "in consideratio
trouble and expense attendant upon this duty," allowed to ch
delivery to the addressee, 8d. for every English or foreign
whatever weight, and for every parcel weighing not more tha
1s. 6d., and exceeding that weight, 3s. The charge on Coloni
was 4d., irrespective of weight; and soldiers' letters, or those a
to their wives, were charged 1d. Very little improvement in
postal matters took place for some years. In 1825 an Act w
by Sir Thomas Brisbane, with the advice of the Council, "to
the postage of letters in New South Wales," giving power
establishment of post-offices, and for the fixing of rates of post
proclamation was subsequently issued, fixing the rates of postage
salaries and allowances of the postmasters; and at the same tim
were invited to tender for the conveyance of mails between Sy
Parramatta, Windsor and Liverpool; between Liverpool an
belltown; and from Parramatta to Emu Plains, and thence to
It was, however, not until 1828 that the provisions of the Act
into full force. The rates of postage appear to have depended
distance and the difficulty of transmission. The lowest singl
rate was 3d., and the highest 12d., the postage on a letter in
according to its weight, and the minimum fee being charged o
not exceeding ¼ ounce. Letters between New South Wales
Diemen's Land were charged 3d. each (ship rate), and newspa
Other ship letters were charged 4d. single rate, and 6d. for any
excess. The privilege of franking was allowed to the Govern
number of the chief public officials, and letters to and from
passed free under certain regulations. In 1828 the total
of salaries paid to the country postmasters was £34 7s.
the establishment in Sydney consisted of one principal pos
one clerk, and one letter-carrier. A letter-carrier was subs
appointed for Parramatta, and he was authorised to ch
public 1d. on every letter delivered by him, which was
remuneration. In 1831 a twopenny post was established in
and in 1835, under Sir Richard Bourke, the Act of 1
repealed, and another Act passed, which fixed the charge on
letter at 4d. for 15 miles, 5d. for 20 miles, 6d. for 30 mi
so on up to 1s. for 300 miles. In 1837 a post-office wa
lished in Melbourne, which was then, of course, a part of Ne

Stamps were introduced in the same year in the shape of
d covers or envelopes, which are believed to have been the first
stamps ever issued.

he year 1838 the Sydney establishment had grown until it con-
of one postmaster-general, one accountant, six clerks, six letter-
s, and one office-keeper, or fifteen persons in all. The revenue for
ar was £8,390, and the expenditure was £10,357 ; there were as
as forty post-offices throughout the colony, which then included
re now known as Victoria and Queensland, besides which, as New
d was not a separate colony until 1841, the only post-office she
at Korraika—was paid through the New South Wales Govern-
An overland mail to Adelaide was established in 1847, the
e on a single letter being 1s. 6d. The Postal Act was amended
in 1849, during the government of Sir Charles Fitzroy, when
stage on town letters was fixed at 1d., and on inland letters at 2d.,
the postage on ship letters was 3d. in addition to the inland rate.
e of postage stamps in the present form was authorised, and the
ge of franking was abolished, petitions to the Queen, the Governor,
e Executive and Legislative Councils being the only communica-
llowed to pass free through the post.

m the discovery of gold in the year 1851 the history of the
fice has been one of progress and improvement. The Post-
-General was originally a non-political officer, as the Registrar-
al and the Auditor-General are at present. In the year 1855—
st for which an annual report was laid before Parliament—there
in the colony altogether 155 post-offices. The head office was in
e-street, on the same site as the present edifice, but the structure
mall and inconvenient, notwithstanding its doric columns and
ent in front. There were no electric telegraphs in the colony at
ime, and the arrival of vessels at the Heads was signalled to the
vatory by means of flags and semaphores. It was in September,
that the first railway was opened in New South Wales, and prior
t time the Southern and Western mails used to leave the General
Office in old-fashioned mail coaches every evening. During that
the total number of miles travelled by the postal contractors,
ach and on horseback, was 1,023,255. The number of letters
g through the Post Office was 2,114,179, of which 617,041 are
hed as "foreign," or, in other words, were addressed to places
d the colony. The number of newspapers was 2,100,989, of
1,281,613 were inland, and 819,376 were "foreign." Book
s and packets were not reckoned separately, but were counted as
s. Ten petitions to the Governor or the Council were conveyed
during the year. The revenue of the Department for 1855 was
02, and the expenditure was £60,221, while the staff numbered
persons in all, of whom 56 were attached to the office in Sydney.
annual report states, with something akin to pride, that the com-
ication with Victoria was not less than three times a week.

The first iron pillar letter-receivers in Sydney were erected in 1855. During the same year 22 miles of railway were utilised for postal purposes, and 16½ miles were added in the following year. The number of letters delivered in Sydney in 1856 was 1,336,032, and in the country 1,481,416, being an average of about 10½ to every person in the community. There were 86,914 registered letters in 1857, and 7,873 oz. of gold were sent through the post that year, as against 23,712 oz. in the previous year. The postal revenue in the year 1857 amounted to £35,716, of which £34,031 was derived from the sale of stamps. The expenditure amounted to £63,865, out of which sum the conveyance of mails in the colony absorbed £41,324, without reckoning £20,000 towards the subsidy for the conveyance of English mails. In his report for 1857 the Postmaster-General is obliged to admit that the mail contract for the conveyance of mails between the Australasian Colonies and the United Kingdom had proved "an utter failure, so far as the stipulated time-table might be taken as a criterion." Only 10 monthly mail-steamers arrived that year, and but one to contract time; while only 11 were despatched. The time allowed was 58 days from Southampton to Sydney, and 56 days from Sydney to Southampton. In 1896 there were 1,503 post-offices in the colony, besides 503 receiving offices and three travelling post offices. The postal lines for that year extended over 34,083 miles, on which the mails were conveyed 2,692 miles by rail and tram, 824 miles by steamer, 20,309 miles by coach and 10,258 miles on horseback. The number of miles actually travelled by the mails was 9,773,500, being an increase of 435,500 over the mileage of the previous year, and of 933,500 over that of 1894.

But while the number of miles travelled by the mails in 1896 was over nine times the mileage travelled in 1855, the number of letters posted during the same period had increased 32 times, and the number of newspapers over 21 times. In 1896 the number of letters was 68,895,300 of which 62,681,000 were posted within the colony, or 49 per head for every individual of the population. The number of newspapers was 45,558,300, of which the number posted in the colony during that year was 41,807,300, or 33 per head. Packets and book parcels numbered 15,603,600, of which 14,714,000 were posted within the colony, or about 11 per head: while in 1858, the first year in which they were enumerated separately, there were only 68,564 packets and parcels. Post cards were first introduced in 1876, when the number sent was 128,786; in 1896 no less than 949,600 were posted within the colony.

Double cards, which may be closed against inspection, and which are designated letter cards, were made available for the use of the public on the 1st July, 1894, the rate charged being 1½d. each. These cards may be transmitted within the colony, as well as to Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Fiji, and British New Guinea. The number carried up to the end of the year was 142,400, while 11,300 were received, making hich passed through the post office 153,700. In 1896 the sted was 380,000, and received from abroad 13,080, making 93,080 passing through the office.

s' post, for inland and intercolonial transmission, was inaugu- t October, 1893, the maximum weight being fixed at 3 lb. and ording to mode of conveyance. The number of parcels der this system up to the close of that year was 44,265; ng 1894 there were 349,218 parcels carried. The foreign ich has been in force since August, 1886, added, in 1893, cels to the total already given; in the following year, 18,672; total number for 1895 was 422,777. In 1896 the total rried was 506,111, of which 426,345 were inland, 55,464 al, and 24,302 foreign.

gress made in regard to the means of postal communication Jnited Kingdom and the continents of Europe and America rvellous. Instead of the unsatisfactory ocean mail service which nominally brought monthly mails, with news 58 days are now four great lines of ocean steamships, which bring he Suez Canal at least once a week, the time occupied in the of the mails averaging 34 to 35 days. In addition, there mail service *via* San Francisco, which averages 38 days in ween London and Sydney, and arrives and departs monthly; thly service *via* Vancouver, by which mails are sent from London in about 39 days. In the interests of trade, the l Government subsidises a steam service with London *via* aits, and advantage is taken of these vessels to send mail This route, however, is but little used by New South Wales. ing table shows, as far as possible, the average time and the me occupied in the transmission of letters by various routes ondon and Sydney during 1896:—

Service.	London to Sydney.		Sydney to London.	
	Average Time.	Quickest Time.	Average Time.	Quickest Time.
	days.	days.	days.	days.
lar and Oriental S. N. Co.'s kets, *via* Brindisi	33 23/26	32	34 9/26	33
.S. Co.'s packets, *via* Naples ...	34 4/13	33	33 25/26	32
.S. Co.'s packets, *via* San Fran- o	38 5/13	37	37 7/13	37
ries Maritimes' packets, *via* rseilles	*	*	32 1/5	31
utscher Lloyd's packets, *via* na	*	*	36 1/13	34
n-Australian packets, *via* Van- ver	*	*	38 9/11	36

*These packets are not used by the General Post Office, London.

Regular steam communication with England was first estab
1852. Prior to that time the colony had to depend upon the
arrival and despatch of sailing vessels, but in that year the st
Australia, Chusan, and Great Britain were despatched from
making the voyage in 60 days, and causing a strong desir
minds of the colonists for a more frequent and steady s
communication with the Old World. The outbreak of the
War in 1854 hindered the accomplishment of this object for
but in 1856 a line of steamers was again started, and the se
carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company and th
Mail Company for some years, without, however, giving
satisfaction to the public as might have been expected.

As far back as 1854 a proposal was made for the establishm
line of mail packets *via* Panama, and negotiations on the subj
carried on for several years between the British Government
Governments of New South Wales and New Zealand. The r
that in 1866 the line was started, and continued in operati
the end of 1868, when it was terminated through the failur
company by which it had been carried out. In the following
colony, in conjunction with New Zealand, inaugurated a mai
via San Francisco, which, with a few interruptions and unde
conditions, has been continued up to the present time. The
expired in November, 1890, and has since then been renew
year to year, New South Wales at present paying a subsidy of

The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the
stimulating the steamship owners who were engaged in the se
Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvemen
steamers laid on, as well as in the punctuality and speed with w
mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Compa
with very few interruptions, carried mails for the colonies alm
the inception of the ocean steam service until now. Tow
end of 1878 the Orient Company commenced carrying mails
Australia and the United Kingdom, and has continued to do
since. More recently the fine steamers of the Messageries M
of France and the North German Lloyd's have entered the
between Europe and Australia, so that there are now one or t
received and despatched every week.

During 1893 direct communication was established between
and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, the New Sout
Government undertaking to pay an annual subsidy of £10,00
maintenance of this service for a period of three years. In M
this agreement was renewed for a further period of three yea
tracts were made in 1895 by the Imperial Government with th
sular and Oriental and the Orient Companies for the extensio
mail service until the 31st January, 1898; and in the beginning
a new contract was made, to take effect from 1st February,
maximum time for delivery of the mails between Sydney and

reduced, and the amount of the subsidy payable by Australia and ania being also lessened.

amount paid by each contributing colony, on the basis of popu- , towards the cost of the Federal Ocean Mail Service, for the 896, was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	27,075	5	0
Victoria	25,078	10	0
Queensland	9,747	3	4
South Australia	7,577	1	8
Tasmania	3,407	16	8
Western Australia	2,114	3	4
Total	£75,000	0	0

contribution from the United Kingdom is £95,000.

approximate net cost to the colony of the Federal Ocean Mail e *via* Suez, the San Francisco Service, and the Vancouver Service e years 1894, 1895, and 1896 may be gathered from the following ent :—

Service.	Estimated Net Cost.		
	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£
per Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Com- nies) ...	12,877	12,438	10,510
ancisco (per Union S.S. Co. of New Zealand) ...	1,892	2,123	1,645
iver (per Canadian-Australian Line) ...	7,846	9,041	7,717

ubsidy of £1,200 per annum was for several years paid to the .N. Co. for the transport of mails between Sydney and New onia, New Hebrides, Sandwich Islands, and Fiji. The same ny also provides a twenty-one days' service between the principal s of the New Hebrides Group. A subsidy of £1,000 was paid is service between the Islands when it was a monthly one. votes were allowed to lapse at the end of 1891.

he year 1865 the office of Postmaster-General was made a political t first without, and subsequently with, a seat in the Cabinet. The st-office building in George-street was found so small and incon- it that it was resolved to build a larger and more commodious on the same site, and in 1863 the business of the department emoved to a temporary wooden building in Wynyard-square. It not until 1873 that the construction of the new building was ently advanced to allow of the officers removing from the crowded ll-ventilated structure in Wynyard-square, where they had carried eir business under great disadvantages and difficulties, to the present

palatia[illegible]ture, which is in every respect a credit to the
The h[illegible]rters of the Electric Telegraph Department, the
Order [illegible] and the Post-office Savings Bank are in the same b
so tha[illegible]stmaster-General has around him all the various b
over w[illegible]ne presides. The table given below shows the operat
the P[illegible]ice in five-year periods from 1855 to 1885, and a
since that date to the end of 1896. For 1885 and succeeding
the figures showing the number of persons employed and the
and expenditure refer to the Department as a whole; prior
year they refer to the Post Office only. Also, from 1885 the in
exclusive of interest on Savings Bank investments, and interest
uninvested Savings Bank balances in the Treasury; and the expe
is exclusive of interest a[illegible]avings Bank depositors :—

Year	Post-offices.	Receiving Offices.	Persons employed.	Extent of Postal Lines.				Distance actually travelled.	Cost of conveyance of mails, Foreign and Inland.	Income.
				Railway, Tramway, and steamer.	Coach.	Horse.	Total.			
	No.	No.	No.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	£	£
1855	155	8	223	*	*		*	1,023,255	45,412	24,90
1860	289	*	289	60½	1,757½		8,231	1,461,518	44,303	45,613
1865	435	*	513	140½	2,528		11,092	2,521,212	49,840	70,985
1870	562	*	690	339	3,865		14,242	3,062,458	48,649	84,441
1875	752	7	967	435	5,407		17,671	3,787,757	138,912	107,761
1880	927	119	1,536	891	8,717	12	22,427	5,246,373	174,238	194,084
1885	1,115	202	3,205	1,797	11,736	13	26,683	6,621,996	226,105	485,489
1886	1,157	217	3,168	1,948	12,540	12,606	27,094	6,891,200	233,723	503,646
1887	1,167	263	3,227	2,074	13,305	12,135	27,514	7,015,600	264,886	521,564
1888	1,203	288	3,387	2,219	14,411	11,530	28,160	7,144,500	248,403	570,800
1889	1,261	305	3,676	2,263	14,914	11,541	28,718	7,299,400	212,725	598,394
1890	1,338	325	3,821	2,273	15,774	11,547	29,594	7,463,000	231,467	637,975
1891	1,384	344	4,070	3,085	16,370	11,802	31,257	8,235,000	207,357	651,608
1892	1,423	377	4,478	3,217	17,467	11,616	32,300	8,568,700	210,426	652,268
1893	1,423	404	4,845	3,412	18,380	11,000	32,792	8,784,600	209,792	643,569
1894	1,445	450	4,982	3,473	19,331	10,260	33,064	8,840,000	214,670	626,864
1895	1,470	502	4,974	3,473	19,545	10,675	33,693	9,338,000	210,354	648,852
1896	1,503	503	4,814	3,516	20,309	10,258	34,083	9,773,500	208,619	695,626

* Not recorded.

It will be noticed that the Postal Department is carried on at
siderable annual loss to the State. This is due in a great mea
the wide area over which the population of the country is sca
which necessitates a proportionately large expenditure for the c
of mails; and also to the fact that newspapers, which form the l
the mail matter, are carried free. But it has always been held
safe and regular despatch and delivery of the mails is an it
much importance in the political, commercial, and social
colony to be neglected, even though it should entail a h
upon the general revenue. An additional sum of £84
obtained by the adoption of a uniform rate of postag
throughout the colony, and the abolition of the fre

newspapers would produce a further sum of £25,000, making together £109,000. This would more than wipe out the deficiency in the postal revenue, including the interest charge on the cost of construction of telegraphs.

The revenue of the department for 1896 included the following amounts:—Postage (less approximate value of postage stamps used as duty stamps), £475,760; electric telegraphs, £153,549; telephones, £31,955; money order commission, £15,232; fees for private bags and boxes, £6,709; collections from other Governments, £4,081; poundage on postal notes, £7,839, and miscellaneous receipts, £502. The expenditure for the year comprised:—Salaries, £405,175; conveyance of mails, £208,619; cable subsidies, etc., £18,434; postal and telegraphic working expenses (various), £89,773; postage stamps re-purchased from the public and used as remittances by public officials, £15,624; and allowances to Railway Department for transacting postal and public telegraph business at railway offices, £6,216. Exclusive of 830 mail contractors and 101 mail porters, 4,814 persons were employed by the Department, of whom 1,192 were engaged in the head office. The following return will give an idea of the magnitude of the work done by the Post Office of New South Wales:—

Year.	Number of Letters.		Number of Newspapers.		*Packets & Book Parcels.		Post Cards.
	Beyond the Colony.	Inland and town.	Beyond the Colony.	Inland.	Beyond the Colony.	Inland.	
1855	617,041	1,497,138	819,376	1,281,613	‡......	‡......	......
1860	868,746	3,362,015	910,478	2,758,305	12,196	71,540	......
1865	1,106,045	5,222,308	1,028,954	3,660,904	28,852	221,052	......
1870	1,103,200	5,980,300	1,206,600	2,608,100	36,700	121,000	......
1875	1,719,100	11,998,800	1,385,900	4,876,700	82,300	274,700	......
1880	2,776,000	18,956,500	2,381,200	11,409,800	146,600	565,000	153,360
1885	5,328,200	34,023,000	3,987,900	21,579,500	552,600	2,894,200	341,000
1886	5,582,700	37,267,200	4,276,300	†23,210,000	865,800	3,983,000	348,700
1887	5,624,000	39,221,900	4,744,400	†25,617,600	980,800	4,549,900	442,100
1888	6,202,800	42,783,200	5,255,000	28,500,400	1,041,600	5,560,300	520,920
1889	6,346,700	47,624,600	5,599,000	30,931,800	1,305,000	6,564,400	630,100
1890	8,109,300	54,908,400	6,949,900	33,647,300	2,214,300	6,725,300	677,400
1891	9,145,600	59,033,000	7,233,400	35,283,900	2,902,100	8,166,400	808,700
1892	11,549,600	65,025,800	9,529,300	35,991,200	3,274,900	9,105,300	827,360
1893	10,616,500	66,924,000	9,055,600	35,872,300	3,287,100	8,773,500	850,420
1894	11,125,500	56,867,800	9,503,800	32,163,500	5,654,100	7,919,500	§1,170,000
1895	11,974,300	56,104,700	9,235,800	35,667,100	4,206,200	7,053,000	§1,294,700
1896	12,468,900	56,426,300	9,324,000	36,234,300	6,306,000	9,297,600	§1,406,500

* Not including packages transmitted by parcels post. † Estimated.
‡ Included with letters. § Inclusive of letter-cards.

The progress exhibited by the table just given is astonishing. In 1855 the total number of letters and newspapers, inland and foreign, was only a shade over 2 millions each, whereas in 1896 the number of letters had grown to nearly 69 millions, and newspapers to over 45 millions, without reckoning over 15½ million packets and book parcels which, in the year first mentioned, were included with the letters.

The charge on letters between the Australasian colonies and the United Kingdom, which had for a long period been at the rate of 6d. per half-ounce *via* Italy, and 4d. by the long sea route, was reduced in

1891 to 2½d. By an arrangement made at the Postal Congress held at Vienna in the middle of 1891, New South Wales, as well as the rest of the Colonies of Australasia, entered the Universal Postal Union on the 1st October, 1891. The effect of this has been to extend the reduced rate to all countries embraced in the Union. The letters posted in New South Wales to countries outside Australasia increased from 986,400 in 1891 to 1,101,000 in 1892, the newspapers from 793,600 to 873,100, and packets from 142,000 to 194,900; but in 1896 the number of letters had increased to 1,285,800; newspapers had decreased to 833,700, while packets had increased to 316,200.

By an enactment made in June, 1893, it is required that newspapers be registered at the General Post Office, and both newspapers and supplements must be printed in New South Wales, from type set up therein, in order to entitle the publications to be transmitted as newspapers. If posted within seven days from the date of publication, newspapers are transmitted within the colony free, if not exceeding 10 oz. in weight, and at the rate of ½d. each for every additional 10 oz. Newspapers for Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Fiji (if printed in New South Wales) are charged ½d. each up to 10 oz., and ½d. for every additional 10 oz.; and to Queensland and British New Guinea, ½d. for every 2 oz. To the United Kingdom or foreign countries the charge is 1d. each for any weight up to 4 oz., and ½d. for every additional 2 oz., the rates having been assimilated in October, 1894.

The following figures show the number of registered letters passing through the General Post Office in each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1887	419,388	1892	1,075,241
1888	555,207	1893	812,036
1889	646,151	1894	856,128
1890	780,202	1895	902,448
1891	1,047,080	1896	1,000,685

Of the registered letters in 1895 and 1896, there were respectively 326,626 and 346,549 from and to places beyond the colony, and 575,822 and 654,116 inland.

The great increase in the number of registered letters up to 1892 was not a natural growth, but was largely due to correspondence relating to the so-called "consultations," or lottery-sweeps connected with horse-racing, probably one-third of the letters registered in 1892 being associated with these sweeps. The Government dealt with this evil in an Amending Postal Act, assented to in 1893. This Act provides that letters addressed to promoters of sweeps within the colony, whose names have been gazetted, shall not be delivered to the addressees, but opened and returned to the senders. The great fall in 1893 in the number of registered letters received at the General Post Office was due to the operations of this Act.

ompared with the other provinces of Australasia and with the
ted Kingdom, New South Wales occupies a favourable position as
ards the number of letters, post cards, and newspapers carried per
d of population, as may be seen from the following table:—

Country.	Number per head of population.		Country.	Number per head of population.	
	Letters and postcards.	News-papers.		Letters and postcards.	News-papers.
South Wales ...	55	35	New Zealand	45	19
oria	71	26	Australasia	52	27
ensland	38	25	United Kingdom......	55	4
h Australia	51	26	England and Wales..	61	4
stern Australia ...	84	52	Scotland	48	4
mania	46	30	Ireland............... ...	29	4

ew postal routes to the extent of 1,124 miles were opened during
6, while 777 miles of routes were abandoned.

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES.

he money order system was brought into operation in New South
les in January, 1863, when nineteen offices were opened—the head
ce in Sydney, and eighteen branch offices in various parts of the colony.
June of the same year the operation of the system was extended to
United Kingdom and all the Australasian colonies with the excep-
of Tasmania, and the number of offices in the colony was increased
orty-seven. The colony of Tasmania entered into the arrangement
1865, and the Department has continued steadily to progress. In
6 there were 626 Money Order Offices in the colony, six new
ces having been established and four abolished during the year.
ring 1896 provision was made for telegraphic money orders being
ed and paid at Money Order Offices connected by telephone with
telegraph system, subject to stringent conditions to prevent abuse.
tal notes were introduced on the 1st October, 1893. They range in
ue from 1s. to 20s., and may be obtained at all Money Order Offices,
poundage varying from 1d. to 4d. Postal notes may be exchanged
ween New South Wales and the other Australasian colonies except
stern Australia and New Zealand. The revenue derived from the
tal note system during the last quarter of 1893 was £548 17s. 10d.;
ing the year 1894, £3,877 13s. 4d.; during 1895, £6,316 12s. 4d.;
during 1896, £7,838 17s. 4d. In the chapter dealing with Private
ance, further particulars of the money order and postal note systems
be found.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

he Post-office Savings Bank, which, like the Money Order Office,
nder the control of the Postmaster-General, was established in the

year 1871 at the General Post Office, Sydney, with branches a
principal country towns. The growth of this branch of the servi
fully kept pace with those already mentioned. In 1896 there wa
Post-office Savings Banks in various parts of the colony, an incre
3 over the number open in the previous year. During the year
new accounts were opened, and 34,572 accounts were closed, the n
of accounts remaining open at the close of the year being 140,386.
amount of deposits received was £2,110,579,—a decrease of £
as compared with the business of the previous year. The
£128,630 was added to depositors' accounts for interest. The bal
the credit of depositors at the end of the year was £4,372,965.
average amount of each deposit was £6 17s. 2¼d., and the average b
at the credit of each depositor was £31 2s. 11¾d. Further infor
respecting the Post-office Savings Banks will be found in the chap
Private Finance.

TELEGRAPHS.

The electric telegraph was first used by the public of New
Wales on the 26th January, 1858, when the line from Syd
Liverpool, 22 miles in length, was brought into operation. Fro
small beginning the system has increased until in 1896 there we
stations in the colony, and 12,418 miles of line open, carrying
miles of wire in actual use. The following table gives a view
business of the Electric Telegraph Department, from 1865 to 189

Year.	No. of Stations.	Number of Telegrams despatched, received, and passed through the Colony.	Revenue received.	No. of miles of Line.	No. of miles of Wire.	C cons
			£			
1865	55	*138,785	29,769	....	2,989	14
1870	86	*173,812	28,550	....	5,247	19
1875	137	*719,745	48,657	....	8,012	25
1880	289	1,319,537	84,110	....	13,188	46
1885	404	2,625,992	155,073	....	19,864	64
1886	425	2,661,126	158,128	....	20,797	66
1887	434	3,258,733	164,511	....	21,444	68
1888	460	3,936,830	185,965	....	22,219	70
1889	485	3,932,670	186,862	10,732	22,606	71
1890	628	4,101,449	193,707	11,231	23,598	74
1891	674	4,046,251	191,319	11,697	24,780	76
1892	706	2,976,109	185,014	11,905	26,443	80
1893	724	2,853,691	157,482	12,097	27,326	[illegible]
1894	813	2,464,074	147,903	12,201	28,085	83
1895	834	2,635,456	145,901	12,316	28,799	84
1896	856	2,796,776	159,741	12,418	30,820	[illegible]

* Number despatched only.

The number of telegrams received and despatched during th
inland telegrams being counted once only, amounted to 2,660,
about 2 per head for every individual of the population.

state of telegraphic construction in the principal countries of the t the latest available dates is given herewith. The figures are ing, though the circumstances of Australasia and the older es are so dissimilar as to make a comparison between them more than valuable :—

ountry.	Length in Miles—		Country.	Length in Miles—	
	Of Line.	Of Wire.		Of Line.	Of Wire.
sia	48,782	101,296	Italy	24,717	95,767
ne Republic	20,415	......	Japan	9,740	29,802
Hungary	43,548	145,777	Mexico	40,990	......
	3,946	19,645	Netherlands	3,497	12,511
	10,143	21,936	Norway	5,195	11,164
	31,540	......	Portugal	3,985	8,839
lony	6,316	......	Russia	74,276	171,663
	11,465	......	Spain	17,628	41,875
k	3,245	9,068	Sweden	5,339	15,175
	73,550	275,370	Switzerland	4,524	12,502
y	82,323	314,379	Turkey	20,750	33,040
	4,781	5,836	United Kingdom	37,329	230,682
nclusive of e States).	44,648	138,256	United States	189,918	826,929

CABLE SERVICES.

Conference of the Postal and Telegraph authorities held in in February, 1891, the question of the cable rates came under ion, and a proposal of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company reed to, by which the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania undertook to make alf the loss which the Company would sustain by a reduction in edule of cable charges. The amended cable rates came into force , 1891. For European messages the rates were reduced from to 4s. per word for ordinary messages, from 7s. 1d. to 3s. 6d. rd for Government messages, and from 2s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. per for press messages, proportionate reductions being made for es to countries other than those in Europe. The amount to be teed to the Company for the time during which the contract was tence was one half of the amount of receipts short of the sum 37,736 (the amount of the Company's receipts in 1889, after ing out-payments), the other half of the loss to be borne by the ny. Under this agreement, New South Wales had to pay in he sum of £15,397 7s. 8d. A conference held in Melbourne , in view of the heavy loss to the colonies, to increase the rate inary messages from 4s. to 4s. 9d. per word, the extra cost apportioned as follows:—To the Cable Company, 7d. per word;

to South Australia, 2d. per word. The new rates came into force on 1st January, 1893, concurrently with an arrangement under which New Zealand became a contributor, on the same terms as the other colonies, towards the guarantees to the Company and South Australia in connection with the reduction in the international rates.

From May, 1893, to April, 1894, the amount paid by New South Wales to the Cable Company in respect of the guarantee in connection with the reduced rates mentioned above, was £3,056 4s. 6d., £271 12s. 8d. also being paid to South Australia. The total contribution for that year in respect of cable services was £19,598 18s. 4d.; the amount paid by the colony for the year ended 30th April, 1895, was £17,659 5s. 1d.; while in the following year the amount was £16,166 18s. The payments to the Cable Company and the South Australian Government have now disappeared, the receipts in both cases being in excess of the guarantee. For the twelve months ending 30th April, 1897, the only contributions which New South Wales was called upon to pay were:—Duplicate Cable Subsidy between Port Darwin and Banjowangie, £13,150 15s. 10d.; Tasmanian Cable Subsidy, £1,704 14s. 8d.; and New Zealand Guarantee, £853 15s. 5d.; total, £15,709 5s. 11d. The expenditure mentioned is exclusive of the guarantee in connection with the New Caledonian cable mentioned below.

In the early part of 1892 an agreement was entered into between New South Wales and the Société Française des Télégraphes Sous-marins (now known as the Compagnie Française des Cables Télégraphiques) by which the latter undertook to lay down a submarine cable, for the purpose of establishing telegraphic communication between Queensland and New Caledonia, in consideration of New South Wales and Queensland each guaranteeing a sum of £2,000 yearly for a period of thirty years. Provision was made that the Governments should have the use of the cable for official messages up to this amount. In October, 1893, the cable was opened.

The construction of a Pacific cable, to connect Canada and the Australasian colonies, was advocated by an Intercolonial Postal and Telegraphic Conference, held in New Zealand during March, 1894, and was reaffirmed by conferences of a similar character, which met in Hobart in February, 1895; and in Sydney, in January, 1896. The Colonial Conference, which sat in Ottawa in the early part of 1894, also recommended that such a cable should be constructed; and the Secretary of State for the Colonies appointed a Commission, on which the British, Canadian, and Australasian Governments were represented, for the purpose of inquiring into the best route for the cable, and the probable cost of its construction. This Commission recommended the adoption of the proposals made at the Sydney Postal Conference, which provided for the distribution of the cost of construction and maintenance equally between Great Britain, Canada, and Australasia, and fixed the landing places within British territory.

following table shows the amount of outward business transacted w South Wales with Europe and the East during the last six :—

ar.	Cable Messages sent from New South Wales.	Amount received.	Year.	Cable Messages sent from New South Wales.	Amount received.
	No.	£		No.	£
91	14,982	46,192	1894	15,146	50,567
92	16,511	41,746	1895	17,761	60,652
93	15,587	50,625	1896	19,826	68,040

* Partly old, partly new rates.

pared with 1891, the year 1896 shows, therefore, an increase of messages, and of £21,848 in revenue.

TELEPHONES.

total number of lines connected with the telephone system of the on the 31st December, 1896, was 5,105, of which 4,550 were in y and suburbs, and 555 in the country. The number of tele- s in use was 5,459. The length of wire used in transmission of ges cannot be given, as the telegraph wires are largely used for ones also. Some particulars regarding telephones in the alasian colonies in 1896–7 will be found in the following table :—

Colony.	Exchanges.	Telephones.	Length of Wires (distinct from Telegraph Wires).	Revenue.
	No.	No.	miles.	£
outh Wales	22	5,459	*	31,955
ia	13	2,939	10,135	37,511
land	22	840	1,043	5,228
Australia	8	1,022	2,727	15,514
rn Australia	6	942	577	6,398
nia	4	722	549	3,382
ealand	29	5,747	5,201	29,249

* Not furnished.

POPULATION.

ONE of the first results of the Census of 1891, taken on the 5th April, was the readjustment of the estimates of population. Prior to that date there had been no actual count of the people of New South Wales since 1881, but an approximate return was made up of the estimated population on the 31st December of each year. This was done by taking into account the increase caused by the excess of births over deaths, and of arrivals over departures. It is evident that if these data could be ascertained exactly, there would be no difficulty in making an accurate estimate of the population at any time. But although the machinery for the registration of births and deaths ensures a fairly correct return under these heads, it is not so easy to obtain exact particulars respecting arrivals and departures—especially departures. The lists of passengers arriving by sea are usually accurate; but in the case of persons leaving the colony, it is found that large numbers go on board steamers at the last moment, without having previously booked their names, and so are not recorded amongst the emigrants. It therefore becomes necessary, when estimating the population, to make allowance for unrecorded departures. The results of the Census of 1891, however, showed that the allowance made on this account during the previous ten years was not sufficient, and that the estimates were therefore in excess of the actual population. Consequently they were recast, and, as now presented, the figures will be found to differ from those published prior to 1892.

The following is an estimate of the population of each of the Australasian colonies on the 30th June, 1897:—

Colony.	Population.
New South Wales	1,311,440
Victoria	1,170,304
Queensland	480,079
South Australia*	356,835
Western Australia	157,781
Tasmania	167,062
New Zealand†	719,292
Australasia	4,362,793

* Including Northern Territory. † Exclusive of 39,854 Maories.

In the preceding table due allowance has been made for unrecorded departures, and, in the case of Western Australia, for unrecorded arrivals took place in the northern parts of that enormous territory, where did not exist proper official means of keeping account of the turers who, from time to time, attracted by rumours of its vast al resources, visited that comparatively unknown land. The pro- n of population belonging to each colony at the middle of 1897 s follows:—New South Wales, 30·06 per cent.; Victoria, 26·82 nt.; Queensland, 11·00 per cent.; South Australia, 8·18 per cent.; ern Australia, 3·62 per cent.; Tasmania, 3·83 per cent.; and New nd, 16·49 per cent.

estimated population of New South Wales at the close of various from 1861 to 1896, will be found hereunder:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1861	201,574	156,404	357,978
1866	235,116	193,697	428,813
1871	282,846	234,912	517,758
1876	333,515	280,666	614,181
1881	429,020	353,060	782,080
1886	543,260	446,080	989,340
1891	630,870	534,430	1,165,300
1892	646,540	551,110	1,197,650
1893	658,990	564,380	1,223,370
1894	672,950	578,500	1,251,450
1895	685,160	592,710	1,277,870
1896	695,150	602,490	1,297,640

r the whole of Australasia the average rate of increase of popula- uring the ten years ended 1896 was 2·46 per cent., the highest n any one year within the period being 3·18 per cent. in 1887, he lowest, 2·00 per cent. in 1896. The rush to Western Australia 1891 has given that colony the largest average annual increase g the decade, namely, 13·30 per cent. The movement of population ubject to great variation in the course of the ten years, an actual ase of 0·83 per cent. being experienced in 1888, while in 1896 the st rate of growth was reached with 36·28 per cent. Queensland e colony which, next to Western Australia, has had the highest of increase, the average annual rate being 3·43 per cent., with a mum of 5·90 per cent. in 1887, and a minimum of 2·35 per cent. 90. New South Wales had an increase averaging 2·75 per cent. ally, with a maximum rate of 3·87 per cent. in 1891, and a mini- of 1·55 in 1896; while Victoria occupied the lowest position, with erage rate of increase of but 1·62 per cent. It is interesting to are the two great colonies of the Australian group in this matter ovement of population during the past few years. In the first two of the decade the rate of increase in Victoria was higher than in South Wales, and at the Census of 1891 the former colony had a rity of 8,171 inhabitants. In every year since 1889, however, New

South Wales has had the greater rate of increase, Victoria act experiencing a decrease to the extent of 0·58 per cent. in 1896, at end of which year it was estimated that the southern province 122,752 inhabitants less than New South Wales. In the other colonies of Tasmania, New Zealand, and South Australia, the an increase during the last ten years was at the rate of 2·36 per cent., per cent., and 1·70 per cent. respectively. The maximum ra Tasmania was 5·04 per cent. in 1891; in New Zealand, 3·36 per ce 1893; and in South Australia, 3·36 per cent. in 1892. In Tas the minimum rate of increase was 0·34 per cent. in 1892, and in Zealand, 0·44 per cent. in 1888; while in South Australia an a decrease at the rate of 0·51 per cent. was experienced in the year The rate of increase for the whole of Australasia was 3·18 per ce 1887; in 1896 it was 2 per cent.

The growth of population in the continent of Australia, and al the whole of Australasia, in periods from 1861 to the end of 18 shown in the following table:—

Year.	Continent of Australia.	Australasia.
1861	1,076,666	1,265,898
1866	1,345,058	1,646,540
1871	1,601,295	1,970,066
1876	1,855,996	2,360,555
1881	2,204,495	2,822,999
1886	2,677,911	3,398,658
1891	3,112,359	3,899,036
1892	3,181,697	3,985,274
1893	3,241,613	4,068,302
1894	3,310,182	4,153,766
1895	3,378,867	4,238,407
1896	3,442,873	4,323,148

The following table gives the net increase of male and female p lation in New South Wales during each year since 1887, allow being made for the persons whose departure from the colony was formally recorded:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1887	15,090	15,900	30,990
1888	14,840	15,910	30,750
1889	15,820	14,920	30,740
1890	20,640	19,400	40,040
1891	21,220	22,220	43,440
1892	15,670	16,680	32,350
1893	12,450	13,270	25,720
1894	13,960	14,120	28,080
1895	12,210	14,210	26,420
1896	9,990	9,780	19,770

ted by the voluntary influx of population—and no test could be practical—the attraction which New South Wales has offered to ettler for many years is most marked. As long as the balance raction remained with the other colonies, so long did the tide of ration set to their shores; but for many years past New South has offered a more substantial reward to the settler than any of ighbours—if Western Australia be excepted—and the result is n the increased numbers who have come hither. The table given shows the total increase in population in each of the Australasian ies during the ten years between the Census of 1881 and that of together with a distribution of this increase between the two s:—

Colony.	Total Increase.	Natural Increase.	Net Increase due to Immigration.
New South Wales............	380,766	217,938	162,828
Victoria	278,059	161,698	116,361
Queensland......................	180,193	77,417	102,776
South Australia................	58,009	86,287	(—) 28,278
Western Australia	23,398	9,292	14,106
Continent of Australia...	920,425	552,632	367,793
Tasmania	30,962	25,001	5,961
New Zealand	134,621	127,184	7,437
Australasia	1,086,008	704,817	381,191

The sign (—) indicates decrease.

is table shows that out of a total increase by immigration of 91 persons, the large proportion of 43 per cent. found a home w South Wales, as against 31 per cent. attracted to Victoria, and r cent. to Queensland. In the total of 162,828 persons credited w South Wales are included 34,079 assisted immigrants. During ame period 103,140 assisted immigrants arrived in Queensland; s the net increase from immigration was only 102,776, it is evident ome of the people who were assisted to emigrate to that colony did remain there. Since 1860, the year following the separation of nsland, the arrivals in New South Wales have in every year, 1862 896 alone excepted, exceeded the departures. The greatest apparent s during any one year was in 1883, when the number of arrivals reater than the departures by 28,579.

sisted immigration dates from 1832. From that year until the ical cessation of the system in 1888, it was, with slight interrup-, the settled policy of New South Wales to grant assistance to able persons who wished to make their home in the colony. In 893 edition of this book will be found a statement showing the increa sisted immigration up to that year. During 189 assist grants arriving in the colony numbered 67, of who were ales, 28 adult females, 18 male children, and 8 fe child ing 1895, 37 persons, of whom 2 were adult male adult , 12 male children, and 7 female children; and d 1896, sons, of whom 8 were adult males, 3 adult femal male children, and 3 female children. It may be explained tha persons still assisted in making their way to the colony are brough in terms of a promise which was made to emigrants while the syst assisted immigration was in force, namely, that if any members family choosing to remain behind should afterwards desire to f their friends to their new home, they should be assisted to emigra the same terms. To the 896, the assisted immigrants arrived in the colony numb 211,923, viz., 76,839 men, 8 women, 27,246 boys, and 25,9 ls. Of these, 77,276 have ar since the year 1861, viz., 28,9 en, 29,079 women, 9,760 boys 9,506 girls.

As recorded in the Shipping e, the persons arriving in the c by sea during the last ten y ere as stated below. The ship authorities do not classify the en according to sex :—

Year.	Adults.			Children.	Total Immigrants.
	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1887	43,769	15,236	59,005	4,413	63,418
1888	40,295	15,446	55,741	4,435	60,176
1889	39,208	16,719	55,927	4,855	60,782
1890	43,124	19,107	62,231	5,285	67,516
1891	44,519	19,318	63,837	6,082	69,919
1892	39,538	17,757	57,295	4,902	62,197
1893	42,536	18,603	61,139	5,770	66,909
1894	46,917	21,823	68,740	6,848	75,588
1895	46,338	22,719	69,057	6,994	76,051
1896	38,164	18,342	56,506	6,127	62,633

The departures during the same period were as follow :—

Year.	Adults.			Children.	Total Emigrants.
	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1887	38,162	12,439	50,601	3,619	54,220
1888	36,278	14,553	50,831	4,070	54,901
1889	32,535	14,030	46,565	3,753	50,318
1890	34,302	15,535	49,837	4,043	53,880
1891	33,877	14,512	48,389	3,684	52,073
1892	33,839	14,828	48,667	4,020	52,687
1893	37,923	16,379	54,302	4,548	58,850
1894	41,060	19,292	60,352	5,624	65,976
1895	40,747	19,549	60,296	6,038	66
1896	36,941	18,766	55,707	6,809	62

ord of the arrivals and departures overland is only available for nine years. The figures are as follow :—

Arrivals.			Departures.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
32,868	9,036	41,904	29,502	9,024	38,526
44,124	17,231	61,355	44,507	17,215	61,722
50,183	19,012	69,195	47,621	17,937	65,558
40,826	28,409	69,235	39,631	26,696	66,327
37,091	24,959	62,050	37,362	25,372	62,734
27,519	17,656	45,175	29,176	20,031	49,207
26,247	16,562	42,809	27,328	18,114	45,442
33,427	19,368	52,795	35,839	21,286	57,125
37,536	21,324	58,860	35,740	21,950	57,690

THE CENSUS OF 1891.

nsus is taken in New South Wales once in ten years. The last ıtion took place on the night of Sunday, 5th April, 1891, and ticulars relating to it will be found in the "General Report on 'enth Census of New South Wales," Sydney, 1894.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEXES.

listribution of the sexes has undergone little change for many ıst. This will be evident from the following figures, which give portions of males and females to the whole population at the last ennial censuses, and at the end of each year since the last census en :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Year.	Males.	Females.
1861	56·57	43·43	1893	53·87	46·13
1871	54·67	45·33	1894	53·77	46·23
1881	54·86	45·14	1895	53·62	46·38
1891	54·14	45·86	1896	53·57	46·43
1892	53·98	46·02			

xcess of male over female population is chiefly at the ages of 0 years, and is only what is to be expected in a country population of which is largely recruited by immigration. It w observed, however, that, owing to the lower death-rate of femal disproportion between the sexes is being steadily lessened.

AGES OF THE PEOPLE.

The Census of 1891 has furnished full particulars with regard ages of the people of New South Wales at that date. The table below shows the number of persons, male and female, at each quennial period of age. The males in their 21st year numbered 1 and the females, 10,857 :—

Ages.	Total Population.			Per 100,000 of Pop	
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Fe
Under 5 years	84,014	81,736	165,750	13,715	
5 years and under 10	72,895	71,359	144,254	11,900	
10 ,, ,, 15	62,230	61,186	123,416	10,159	
15 ,, ,, 20	54,267	54,476	108,743	8,859	
20 ,, ,, 25	57,963	53,441	111,404	9,462	
25 ,, ,, 30	59,895	46,950	106,845	9,778	
30 ,, ,, 35	52,115	36,690	88,805	8,508	
35 ,, ,, 40	40,380	27,303	67,683	6,592	
40 ,, ,, 45	31,446	22,237	53,683	5,133	
45 ,, ,, 50	27,054	18,658	45,712	4,417	
50 ,, ,, 55	22,753	14,853	37,606	3,714	
55 ,, ,, 60	16,716	10,812	27,528	2,729	
60 ,, ,, 65	12,690	7,762	20,452	2,072	
65 ,, ,, 70	7,030	4,905	11,935	1,148	
70 ,, ,, 75	5,048	3,692	8,740	824	
75 ,, ,, 80	2,842	1,903	4,745	464	
80 ,, ,, 85	1,294	877	2,171	211	
85 ,, ,, 90	422	284	706	69	
90 ,, ,, 95	142	79	221	23	
95 ,, ,, 100	21	27	48	3	
100 ,, and over	12	7	19	2	
Unspecified	1,333	435	1,768	218	
All ages	612,562	519,672	1,132,234	100,000	

It will be noticed that there is a gradual diminution in the n of persons at the different periods of age from infancy to old ag only exception being the period between 20 and 25 years of age. females show a steady falling off at each period from the top bottom of the column; but the males show an increase in th periods from 20 to 25 years and from 25 to 30 years—the when the physical energies of men should be at the highest Altogether, the table shows the composition of the people of this to approach very nearly that of a theoretically perfect community.

SUPPORTING, MILITARY, AND REPRODUCTIVE AGES.

ning that males from 20 to 60 years of age are capable of ng themselves, it will be found that New South Wales possessed st census period no less than 306,911 males of that desirable 50·48 per cent. of the male population, excluding aborigines. ere but 29,170 males of 60 years of age and over, representing per cent. of the total male population; while the remaining males, forming 44·72 per cent. of the total number, were under s of age. The number of males from 20 to 40 years—the age, that is, the age of those upon whom the first call for the of the country would naturally be made—was 209,589, equal to r cent. of the male population.

15 to 45 years of age is usually considered the reproductive f life in females. There were at the census date 239,503 such in New South Wales, or 46·42 per cent. of the female on.

y be presumed that at the middle of the year 1897 the population South Wales included 354,600 males from 20 to 60 years of ,100 under 20 years, and 33,700 of 60 years and upwards. The of males of military age at that date may be set down at . Females of the reproductive period of life would number

BIRTHPLACES OF THE PEOPLE.

e 1,123,954 people, exclusive of 8,280 aborigines, who composed ulation of New South Wales when the Census was taken in e birthplaces of all but 1,301 were recorded; but of those who state the place of their nativity 1,206 had British, and 95 had names. The following table shows the birthplaces of the on:—

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.
British Empire.			
uth Wales	363,495	361,520	725,015
s	22,792	17,976	40,768
land	4,987	5,186	10,173
Australia	9,850	7,866	17,716
n Australia	244	220	464
nia	3,075	2,776	5,851
aland	4,883	4,132	9,015
lia (Colony not defined)	471	403	874
gdom—			
d	92,617	56,615	149,232
	3,232	1,765	4,997
d	23,026	13,795	36,821
	39,449	35,602	75,051
Possessions	127	50	177
ssions—			
	1,309	491	1,800
	248	57	305

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total
British Empire—continued.			
African Possessions—			
South Africa	239	191	43
Mauritius	166	97	26
Others	33	12	4
American Possessions—			
Dominion of Canada	885	189	1,07
West Indies	350	94	44
Others	73	29	[illegible]
Polynesian Possessions	164	134	29
Total, British Empire	571,715	509,191	1,080,9
Foreign Countries.			
European Countries (including Possessions out of Europe)—			
German Empire	6,976	2,589	9,56
France and Possessions	1,718	552	2,27
Russia	987	189	1,17
Austria-Hungary	534	54	58
Spain and Possessions	95	43	13
Portugal and Possessions	233	16	24
Switzerland	494	100	59
Netherlands and Possessions	249	35	28
Belgium	143	38	18
Denmark and Possessions	1,276	212	1,48
Turkey	280	98	37
Greece	241	14	25
Other Balkan States	18	1	19
Sweden and Norway	3,237	160	3,39
Italy	1,229	248	1,47
Europe (country not defined)	2	2	4
Asiatic Countries—			
Chinese Empire	13,048	109	13,15
Japan	69	11	8
Others	173	11	18
African Countries	138	57	19
American Countries—			
United States	2,509	870	3,37
Others	186	57	24
Polynesia	369	117	48
Total, Foreign Countries	34,204	5,583	39,78
At Sea—			
British Names	1,067	863	1,93
Foreign Names	20	19	3
Unspecified—			
British Names	913	293	1,20
Foreign Names	84	11	9
Total Population (exclusive of Aborigines)	608,003	515,951	1,123,9

A comparison of the racial composition of the people at the last
census periods is afforded by the table given below. It will be
that in the course of the thirty years from 1861 to 1891 the proport

ustralasian-born to the total population advanced from 47·03 per
. to 71·53 per cent., while that of the persons born in the British
, declined from 45·19 per cent. to 23·5 per cent. :—

Nationality.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
South Wales	45·69	58·38	61·95	64·03
r Australasian Colonies	1·34	2·67	5·95	7·50
igines	......	0·19	0·22	0·73
ish	23·98	17·33	14·32	13·18
	15·63	12·49	9·21	6·63
h	5·19	3·98	3·34	3·25
h	0·39	0·37	0·41	0·44
r British Subjects	0·99	0·68	0·69	0·71
Total, British Subjects	93·21	96·09	96·09	96·47
se	3·70	1·43	1·36	1·16
an	1·56	1·31	1·00	0·84
r Foreigners	1·53	1·17	1·55	1·53
Total, Foreigners	6·79	3·91	3·91	3·53

f the Australasian natives living within New South Wales when
1891 Census was taken, 280,624 were adults, the birthplaces of
n were as follow :—

Birthplace.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	115,530	116,571	232,101
Victoria	15,225	10,825	26,050
Queensland	2,003	2,060	4,063
South Australia	5,215	3,576	8,791
Western Australia	167	150	317
Tasmania	2,599	2,248	4,847
New Zealand	2,258	1,562	3,820
Colony undefined	359	276	635
Total	143,356	137,268	280,624

e question of the Chinese and other alien races is elsewhere dis-
d in this chapter.

CENTRALISATION OF POPULATION.

e of the most notable problems in the progress of modern civilisation
e tendency of the population, everywhere exhibited in the chief
ries of the world, to accumulate in great cities. Not only is

apparent in gland, France, and other countries where the development of m tures has brought about an entire change in the employments of eople, and has necessarily caused the aggregation of workers in to s, but it is seen also in the United States, the most favoured count y for the agricultural labourer. It is noticed, too, that in all new countries there is a tendency for immigrants to locate themselves in and near the great cities, and the colony of New South Wales is no exception to the rule.

As far back as 1861, when the native-born population amounted to only 45·69 per cent. of the inhabitants of the colony, the number living in Sydney and suburbs formed only 42·13 per cent. of the metropolitan population; while British-born colonists, forming 46·18 per cent. of the inhabitants of the col ·93 per cent. of the dwellers in the city and environs. In 1 ive-born formed 64·76 per cent. of the total population, but tion of native-born resident in the metropolitan area had 53 per cent., and the proportion of British-born had declined cent. Of late years, natives of the other colonies who have cted to New South Wales have shown no decided preference t he metropolis or the rural districts; but such slight differen ere is is in favour of town life. The non-British population ha rule, preferred the country districts to Sydney. Latterly, howe ere has been a tendency on the part of certain foreign e vitate towards the chief city. This is especially notic nese and Hindoos, as well as in the case of Syrians an Levant.

The conditions of progress in the Australasian colonies approximate somewhat to those of the United States, and a comparison between the increase of town population there and in New South Wales is not without interest. The great defect in the comparison arises from the fact that in America there exist many large cities, while in New South Wales there is practically only one. The population of the United States for four periods, and the proportion of rural to city population, will be seen below:—

Year.	Population of the United States.	Population of Cities of United States.	Percentage of Urban to Total Population.
1860	31,443,321	5,072,256	16·13
1870	38,558,371	8,071,875	20·93
1880	50,155,783	11,318,547	22·57
1890	63,622,250	18,284,385	29·20

The rapid increase of city population shown above has given rise to considerable speculation. It seems an established fact that the movement of population towards the towns in the old countries o is a sign of the desire of the rural population for an impr circumstances; for, like every other commodity, labour gravitates market where it will obtain the highest price. In America crease in town population has been derived mainly from abroad; ere seems no reason to suppose that, large as the proportion of population has become, it has reached an unhealthy stage. In lasia, however, the case is different, and it is impossible to believe ealthy progress is consistent with the wonderful growth of the polis at the expense of the country. Over 57 per cent. of the se due to immigration in New South Wales during the period 91 was retained in the metropolis. In this colony the proportion n population is even more remarkable than in the United States, be seen from the table here given, showing the percentage of tion of Sydney and suburbs and of the country districts :—

Year.	Metropolitan.	Country.
	per cent.	per cent.
1861	26·70	73·30
1871	26·73	73·27
1881	30·34	69·66
1891	34·26	65·74

the neighbouring colony of Victoria, the corresponding figures

Year.	Metropolitan.	Country.
	per cent.	per cent.
1861	25·89	74·11
1871	28·87	71·13
1881	32·81	67·19
1891	42·49	57·51

he table of urban population of the United States on page 598 cluded all towns exceeding 8,000 inhabitants; nevertheless, portion to the whole is much less there than in either New South or Victoria, where only the chief city has been taken. The case lbourne is even more marked than that of Sydney; for during the years covered by the table the growth of Melbourne at the se of the rural districts has been proportionately greater than owth of Sydney, and up to the year 1892 its actual numerical se was also greater. During the last four years, however, a umber of breadwinners have left these cities for the west, while again, have gone to the country in search of occupation which ave failed to find in town, and consequently the proportion of population is now somewhat less than it was at the date of the last census. At the close of 1896 it is estimated that Sydney and suburbs contained 31·60 per cent. of the population of New South Wales, and Melbourne and suburbs 38·40 per cent. of the population of Victoria. The following figures represent the population of the city and suburbs of Sydney and of Melbourne at the end of each year:—

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne.
1861	95,596	139,860	1892	411,710	474,810
1871	136,483	206,780	1893	421,030	444,832
1881	237,300	296,347	1894	423,060	[illegible]
1886	308,270	389,512	1895	408,500	447,565
1891	399,270	491,942	1896	410,000	451,110

The extraordinary progress of Sydney and Melbourne has no parallel amongst the cities of the Old World. Even in America the rise of the great cities has been accompanied by a somewhat corresponding increase in the rural population. In the Australasian colonies, however,—perhaps for the first time in the history of the world—is seen the disquieting spectacle of magnificent cities growing with wonderful rapidity, and embracing within their limits one-third of the population of the territory of which they are the centre. The chief cities of the other Australasian colonies present somewhat similar features to Sydney and Melbourne; but, with the exception of Adelaide, which contains fully two-fifths of the whole population of South Australia, they are not so large in proportion to their rural population.

The one satisfactory feature in connection with the growth of the chief cities of Australasia is that, in spite of their inordinate size when compared with the population of the colonies, they have not grown by the process of absorbing the rural population. This question was fully discussed by the author in his report upon the last census of New South Wales, and it may suffice to repeat here that the growth of the Australian cities is due mainly to the physical configuration of the continent, which makes no other mode of development possible—for there are no great rivers with leagues of navigable waterway stretching into the heart of the country far remote from the seaports. To some extent the growth of cities has also been favoured by the commercial development of the colonies. For many years wool-growing has been the staple industry of the country; and while the actual tending of flocks needs few hands, and those widely scattered, the handling of bales of wool at a convenient place of shipment demands all the resources of a great commercial centre. Also, gold-digging, to which the colonies owe so much, is not an industry likely to promote permanent settlement in the interior. The miner of the past was in every respect a nomad: if successful in his quest after the precious metal, he became an emigrant to the old world or a sojourner in an Australian capital.

he estimated population of the chief cities of the Australasian colonies he end of 1896 is given below :—

City.	Population, 31st December, 1896.
Sydney	410,000
Melbourne	451,110
Adelaide	145,212
Brisbane	100,913
Wellington	41,758
Hobart	37,885
Perth	34,129

Vellington, the capital of New Zealand, is not the most populous in that colony ; Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin, all contain ger populations.

ydney stands alone amongst Australian cities for convenience of tion and natural advantages for external and internal trade, and the gress it has made in wealth and population has not been less than ectation warranted. At the census of 1861 the population of the le metropolis was 95,596 ; ten years later it had risen to 136,483 ; le at the census of 1881 the number had reached 224,211 ; and at the sus of 1891, 383,386. The growth of the city and suburbs and of country districts may be traced in the following table, showing the mated population on the 31st December of each year :—

Year.	Metropolitan.			Country.	New South Wales.		
	City.	Suburbs.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1870	75,493	59,085	134,578	364,081	272,543	226,116	498,659
1875	85,267	78,808	164,075	430,222	323,080	271,217	594,297
1880	99,683	124,203	223,886	524,064	409,224	338,726	747,950
1885	122,910	169,640	292,550	657,020	523,030	426,540	949,570
1890	111,980	268,060	380,040	741,820	609,650	512,210	1,121,860
1891	109,090	290,180	399,270	766,030	630,870	534,430	1,165,300
1892	106,380	305,330	411,710	785,940	646,540	551,110	1,197,650
1893	105,890	315,140	421,030	802,340	658,990	564,380	1,223,370
1894	103,870	319,730	423,600	827,850	672,950	578,500	1,251,450
1895	100,000	308,500	408,500	869,370	685,160	592,710	1,277,870
1896	96,330	313,670	410,000	887,640	695,150	602,490	1,297,640

he increase of population during the twenty years which closed 1896 has been 140·45 per cent. in the metropolis, and 100·07 per cent. e country districts. The population of the whole colony has more doubled itself during this period, the total for 1896 showing an ase of 111·28 per cent. on the number in 1876.

The incorporated area in the metropolitan district is about 141 square miles, or 90,230 acres, so that the average density of population at the end of the year was 4·54 persons per acre, some of the more immediate suburbs being more densely populated than the city itself. The area of land permanently dedicated for public recreation in the metropolis is 3,053 acres (including the Centennial Park, the area of which is about 530 acres), equal to nearly one-twentieth of the total extent of the district, which must certainly be looked upon as a very liberal provision for the maintenance of public health. This is quite apart from the National Park, an area of 36,320 acres, which is within an hour's journey by train of the city; and of the Ku-ring-gai Chase, 35,300 acres in extent, which has recently been reserved for public recreation in the valley of the Hawkesbury. The area of Melbourne and suburbs is 163,942 acres, or about 256 square miles, and the population at the end of the year 1896 was 451,110; this shows a density of population of 2·74 persons to the acre. The area reserved as public recreation grounds within the boundary of Melbourne and suburbs is 5,329 acres.

The suburbs of Sydney comprise forty distinct municipalities, the population of which, at the date of the census of 1891 and at the end of 1896, will be found below:—

Municipality.	Population 5th April, 1891.	Population 31st Dec., 1896.	Municipality.	Population 5th April, 1891.	Population 31st Dec., 1896.
Alexandria	7,505	7,870	Leichhardt	*12,092	13,400
Annandale	4,975	7,430	Manly	3,236	3,750
Ashfield	11,697	12,650	Marrickville	13,507	16,500
Balmain	23,475	28,000	Marsfield	525	670
Botany	2,060	2,460	Mosman	1,460	2,400
Botany, North	2,407	2,990	Newtown	17,870	19,940
Burwood	6,227	6,300	North Sydney	*15,646	18,180
Camperdown	6,658	7,000	Paddington	18,392	19,000
Canterbury	2,426	3,350	Petersham	10,369	12,500
Concord	2,107	2,300	Randwick	6,236	7,000
Darlington	3,465	3,500	Redfern	21,322	23,020
Drummoyne	1,451	2,100	Rockdale	4,908	6,400
Enfield	2,050	2,230	Ryde	*1,800	2,330
Erskineville	5,275	5,490	St. Peter's	4,860	5,300
Five Dock	1,250	1,400	Strathfield	1,820	2,600
Glebe	17,075	16,680	Vaucluse	870	1,000
Hunter's Hill	3,633	4,000	Waterloo	8,701	8,550
Hurstville	3,175	5,330	Waverley	8,842	10,500
Kogarah	2,328	3,190	Willoughby	*2,886	3,700
Lane Cove	925	1,200	Woollahra	*9,153	10,000

* Within present limits.

At the beginning of the year 1897 there were 142 boroughs municipal districts outside the metropolis. A statement of th ities, with the most recent estimates of population will be found

ry ities.	Population.	Country Municipalities.	Population.	Country Municipalities.	Population.
	720	Grafton, South	1,400	Orange, East	2,250
	2,180	Granville	4,800	Parkes	3,200
	5,650	Grenfell	720	Parramatta	12,500
	4,700	Greta	1.280	Peak Hill	1,100
	2,400	Gulgong	2,000	Penrith	4,570
	1,350	Gundagai	1,000	Picton	1,130
	720	Gunnedah	1,200	Plattsburg	3,300
	1,000	Hamilton	5,200	Port Macquarie	980
	9,200	Hay	3,250	Prospect and	
	2,300	Hill End	910	Sherwood	2,550
	2,300	Hillston	750	Queanbeyan	1,200
	800	Illawarra, Central	3,300	Quirindi	1,250
	1,200	,, North.	2,400	Raymond Terrace	900
	1,020	Ingleburn	550	Richmond	1,370
	3,400	Inverell	3,250	Rookwood	2,350
	2,100	Jamberoo	1,340	Scone	1,200
	1,500	Jerilderie	790	Shellharbour	1,650
ll	18,580	Junee	2,200	Shoalhaven, South	920
Vale	400	Katoomba	1,500	Silverton	550
	750	Kempsey	1,960	Singleton	2,000
and		Kiama	2,300	,, South	800
ale	950	Lambton	3,500	Smithfield and	
	1,700	,, New	1,570	Fairfield	1,500
wn	2,400	Lismore	3,300	St. Mary's	2,000
	650	Lithgow	3,500	Stockton	2,220
	2,120	Liverpool	3,200	Tamworth	5,400
	2,300	Maclean	950	Taree	730
	1,400	Maitland, East	3,000	Temora	1,800
	2,000	,, West	7,600	Tenterfield	2,500
	850	Merewether	4,420	Tumut	1,300
	2,000	Mittagong	1,100	Ulladulla	1,370
	1,100	Moama	860	Ulmarra	1,400
ra	2,920	Molong	1,200	Uralla	610
	650	Moree	1,700	Wagga Wagga	4,600
	1,750	Morpeth	1,100	Walcha	1,500
	600	Moruya	1,000	Wallendbeen	1,500
	2,300	Moss Vale	1,500	Wallsend	3,670
	2,930	Mudgee	2,500	Waratah	2,530
	3,450	Mulgoa	500	Warren	1,330
	900	Murrumburrah	1,500	Wellington	1,520
	1,100	Murrurundi	1,150	Wentworth	720
and		Musclebrook	1,500	Wickham	5,650
re	640	Narrabri	2,450	Wilcannia	1,040
	3,700	,, West	750	Windsor	2,200
	750	Narrandera	2,000	Wingham	570
	3,200	Newcastle	14,800	Wollongong	3,100
	650	Nowra	2,150	Yass	1,700
	12,300	Nyngan	1,200	Young	3,000
	4,600	Orange	3,600		

Th[illegible]lk of the population dwells along the seaboard. O the m[illegible] the most thickly peopled districts are the fertile of the r[illegible] Amongst these, in point of population, the Hunter valley, with [illegible] large agricultural and mining industries, stands first. Illawarra d[illegible]ict, rich in coal and pasture, comes next; then the and sugar [illegible]owing country of the Clarence and the Richmond. settlement [illegible] population originally followed the main roads o colony, a[illegible] now drawn to the great trunk lines of railway, have almost superseded them.

NATURALISATION.

The law relating to the naturalisation of foreigners in New Wales is mainly contained i[illegible] statutes. One of these i Denization Act of 1828, 9 G[illegible] IV, No. 6. This Act enable Governor or Acting Governo[illegible]rant letters of denization to foreigners as may arrive in th[illegible]olony with a recommendatio that effect from the Secretary of [illegible]te for the Colonies, these lett denization entitling the holder to all the rights, privileges, and a tages in the colony which a British-born citizen may claim. An Act which was passed to deal with naturalisation was 11 Victoria 39, which was amended by 17 Victoria No. 8, and repealed in 18 favour of an Act now in force, which is known as the Naturalis Act of New South Wales, 39 Victoria, No. 19. This measure passed in 1875, and assented to in 1876, having been reserved fo Queen's pleasure. The Act provides that an alien in New South may hold and acquire real and personal property, but shall not be fied for any office nor enjoy either a municipal or parliamentary fran shall not be qualified to be the owner of a British ship; and shal have any rights and privileges except such as are expressly conf upon him. After a residence in the colony of not less than five a foreigner may apply for letters of naturalisation, which the Gov may or may not grant, in his option. After letters of naturalis have been received, and the oath of allegiance has been taken, holder becomes entitled to all the privileges which are conferre British birth. Under a special enactment the naturalisation of Ch is no longer permitted; and it was proposed to extend this provisi other coloured races by the "Coloured Races Restriction and Regul Act, 1896," from which the Royal assent was withheld. Certif of naturalisation granted in other colonies do not confer the British citizenship in New South Wales.

There were 184 foreigners naturalised in this colony duri Germans have availed themselves most largely of the priv naturalisation, the number of certificates issued to them upwards of one half of the total number granted sinc

g table shows the native countries of those colonists who obtained tes of naturalisation from 1849 to 1896 :—

Countries.	1849 to 1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	Total.
....	74	3	3	6	3	10	4	10	4	8	6	131
n	15	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	19
rk	190	19	10	15	9	21	11	22	26	16	10	349
....	184	9	7	9	6	9	4	8	16	9	1	262
ıy	2,729	48	32	58	34	55	54	78	89	62	90	3,329
....	22	3	2	4	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	34
l............ ..	53	3	1	2	3	2	1	1	...	2	2	70
....	104	6	6	5	5	8	13	...	6	2	8	163
....	53	5	9	8	3	14	8	14	22	11	7	154
ıl	27	...	3	2	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	37
....	55	6	10	6	5	18	9	35	18	26	13	201
....	13	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	18
....	173	13	16	13	18	41	13	40	31	20	23	401
land	124	1	1	3	5	3	3	1	5	3	3	152
—												
States	100	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4	1	1	110
cified	13	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	19
....	907	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	908
ionalities —												
n islands ...	18	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	23
cified	82	1	4	3	6	6	19	6	8	8	18	161
l............ ..	4,936	119	105	137	99	193	143	221	234	170	184	6,541

rsons naturalised during 1896, there were 3 bakers, 1 blacksmith, tants, 5 carpenters, 3 clerks, 4 dealers, 3 engineers, 38 farmers, ıers, 5 hawkers, 1 hospital attendant, 2 jewellers, 23 labourers, ed victuallers, 10 mariners, 5 merchants, 8 miners, 14 store- 3 tailors, 1 teacher, 1 wharf labourer, and 46 others.

CHINESE POPULATION.

nanimity with which the Australasian colonies have passed laws ıg the immigration of Chinese may be taken as some evidence desirability of that race as colonists. At the Census of 1861 there New South Wales 12,988 Chinese. In November of that year f £10 per head was imposed upon Chinese male immigrants. tinued until the month of November, 1867; and when the vas taken in 1871 the number of Chinese in the colony was have fallen to 7,220. In 1881 the number had risen to 10,205, 5,445 at the end of 1888. Since that time, however, the depar- re been numerous, and only 14,156 Chinese were enumerated in

April, [illegible] For many years New South Wales offered little induce to the [illegible] as a place of settlement, the superior attractivene Victoria a[illegible]other colonies as gold producers claiming their atten At the [illegible] Lambing Flat in 1860, however, large numbers of Chi came [illegible]he border and established themselves in this colony, strengt[illegible]g constantly recruited by fresh arrivals from China; these [illegible]inese did not remain in New South Wales, for, as alr shown, at the Census of 1871 there were 5,768 less than ten previously.

The numbers of Chinese who entered and left New South W during each year since 1875 will be found in the following table:—

Year.	Arrivals.	[illegible]	Year.	Arrivals.	Depart
1875	625	[illegible]	1886	3,092	1,88
1876	696	[illegible]	1887	4,436	2,77
1877	884	[illegible]	1888	1,848	1,56
1878	2,485	[illegible]	1889	7	941
1879	1,979	[illegible]	1890	15	63
1880	2,942	[illegible]	1891	17	58
1881	4,465	[illegible]	1892	21	75
1882	1,007	884	1893	34	55
1883	1,936	1,402	1894	76	62
1884	2,191	1,038	1895	94	41
1885	2,929	1,726	1896	99	45

It will be seen that 1878 and following years were marked large increase in the arrivals from China. The influx appeared in sufficiently formidable to demand the interference of the Legisla Accordingly, the "Influx of Chinese Restriction Act" was passed, imposing a poll-tax of £10, with the result that the subsequent yea marked by a decrease in the arrivals to the extent of 3,458. After time, however, there was a steady increase until 1888, when the p of the Legislature were again invoked to restrict the immigration of undesirable colonists. This legislation was partly the outcome conference of delegates from the Australasian colonies which was in Sydney in that year, and which was convened after conside discussion had taken place upon this growing public danger. Alth it was not deemed advisable to altogether prohibit the immigrati Chinese aliens, yet it was considered necessary that the numbers leged to land should be so limited that an effective check would be to the immigration of this race. The New South Wales Parliam already considering a Bill when the conference was summon ultimately the new enactment came into force in the colony 11th July, 1888. By this measure vessels are prohibited from to the colony more than one Chinese passenger to every 300 Chinese landing are required to pay a poll-tax of £100; engage in mining, without express authority under the h [inister of Mines; nor, as before explained, are they permitted to advantage of the Naturalisation Act. Chinese who by birth are h subjects do not come within the provisions of this restrictive ation: but the Coloured Races Restriction Bill, from which the l assent was withheld, proposed to place them upon the same g as their less fortunate brethren. The penalty for a breach of hinese Restriction Act is £500. The Act has operated to the cessation of Chinese immigration. How greatly the number of ls of Chinese has fallen off since 1888 will be seen from the ring table, which also shows the number who have paid the poll-uring the years enumerated :—

ar.	Chinese arriving.	Chinese paying Poll-tax.	Year.	Chinese arriving.	Chinese paying Poll-tax.
185	2,929	1,060	1891	17	1
186	3,092	1,284	1892	21	2
187	4,436	1,798	1893	34	7
188	1,848	462	1894	76	3
189	7	1	1895	94	2
190	15	3	1896	99	2

the Census of 1891, there were 42,521 Chinese recorded in the alasian colonies, as shown in the table following. When the s of 1881 was taken the total number in the colonies was set down ,706, so that there was a net decrease at the end of the ten years 185 :—

Colony.	Number.
New South Wales	14,156
Victoria	9,377
Queensland	8,574
South Australia	3,997
Western Australia	917
Tasmania	1,056
New Zealand	4,444
Australasia	42,521

the colony of New Zealand a Census is taken every five years. e Census of 1896 the number of Chinese was 3,711.

ormation showing the number of marriages of Chinamen resident in South Wales is not available annually, nor is it possible to ascertain ationalities of the women who form matrimonial unions with the se. The last Census returns, however, showed that of the 286 se then in the colony whose wives were with them, 129 were ed to natives of New South Wales, 29 to Victorians, 7 to wives born in Queensland, 1 to a South Australian, 4 to Tasmanians, 1 to a native of New Zealand, and 4 to wives born in Australia, the particular colony not being stated. Twenty-eight Chinese were married to English women, 3 to Scotch women, 16 to Irish women, 1 to a German, and 1 to a French woman. In 60 cases the wife was a native of the Chinese Empire as well as the husband, while in the remaining 2 cases the birthplace of the wife was not stated.

PREVENTION OF INFLUX OF COLOURED RACES.

In 1896 the question of the influx of the alien races was deemed by Parliament to be sufficiently grave to justify it in extending the provisions of the Chinese Restriction and Regulation Act of 1888 so as to exclude from the colony the coloured races of Asia and Africa and the coloured inhabitants of the islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. An important feature of the Bill was that it proposed to restrict the immigration of persons belonging to the inferior races whether they were or were not British subjects by birth, and the existing Act was so amended that Chinese born in British territory were shut out from free entry into the colony as well as the subjects of the Chinese Emperor. The Australian aborigines and the Maoris of New Zealand were not affected by the Bill; and all persons partially of European descent were likewise unrestricted in their movements. Provision was made to allow of the admission into the colony of accredited representatives of the States whose subjects were excluded under the Bill, and of missionaries, tourists, and persons travelling with the object of prosecuting scientific researches. Also, division of a family was prevented by treating wives as of the nationality of their husbands. The new measure, which was termed "The Coloured Races Restriction and Regulation Act, 1896," was reserved for the assent of Her Majesty, but this was withheld, and it was, therefore proposed towards the close of 1897, to introduce new bills to effect the same object in another way.

ABORIGINES.

This name, signifying "from the origin," was given to the earliest known inhabitants of Italy, but it is now applied to the original or primitive inhabitants of any country. As the history of the native race in these colonies is so entwined with the progress of the British people in Australia, a few words concerning them may not be out of place. The aborigines of Australia form a distinct race, and it may be presumed that the whole of them throughout the continent sprang from the same stock, although it is remarkable that their languages differ so greatly that tribes within short distances are often quite unable to understand each other, and in fact almost every large community of natives has its own peculiar dialect. It is difficult to form a correct estimate of the numbers of the aborigines; but while there is reason to believe that some generations ago they were very numerous, there is ample evidence of late years that in many places they are decreasing, and they may now e counted by fives where they were formerly counted by hundreds. In 'asmania they have disappeared altogether, the last of the tribe in that olony having died in 1876.

It is recorded that Governor Phillip estimated the aboriginal popula- ion about the close of the last century at one million; the number etween Broken Bay and Botany Bay appearing to have been about ,000. It is impossible to say how far this estimate was in accordance vith fact; for although at the time it did not probably seem an exagger- ted conjecture in the face of so large a number as 3,000 having been ound within the small area between the bays above mentioned, yet onsidering how small a portion of the territory was then explored by he early settlers, the statement must be accepted as what it professes to e, namely, an estimate at a time when the data to hand were very imited. At the Census of 1891 the aborigines in Australia, exclusive of Queensland (where they were not even estimated), were said to umber 38,879, distributed as follows:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales............	4,559	3,721	8,280
Victoria	325	240	565
South Australia...............	14,510	9,279	23,789
Western Australia	3,516	2,729	6,245
Total	22,910	15,969	38,879

The original inhabitants of New Zealand, or Maoris, as they are called, are quite a different race. They are gifted with a considerable amount of intelligence, are quick at imitation, and brave even to rashness; on the other hand, they are avaricious, and oft times ferocious. According to the Census of 1881, they numbered 44,097. Like the Australian aborigines, they appear to be decreasing in number, the Census of 1886 enumerating only 41,432; and although in 1891 the total was found to be 41,993, in 1896 it was but 39,854. It is believed that at the time the colonists first landed the number of Maoris in the country was fully 120,000.

According to the Census of 1891, there were 8,280 aborigines in New South Wales, this total including half-castes, who numbered 3,183. The number of aborigines under the control of the Aborigines Protection Board at the end of the year 1896 was 6,984, of whom 3,503 were full-bloods and 3,481 half-castes. This shows a decrease on the return for the end of 1895 of 157 full-bloods and an increase of 95 half-castes. The number of births reported during 1896 was 232 (153 of the children being half-castes), and the number of deaths, 201 (61 half-castes). There are three mission stations. These establishments, when first formed, were little more than camping grounds for the aborigines, where the blacks worked for their rations, and elementary instruction was imparted to the children; but now they have developed into settlements,

with greatly improved huts for married couples, and adequate ac
dation for teaching, duly qualified instructors having been appoi
the Department of Public Instruction. At the end of 1896 the
244 full-blood aborigines and half-castes living at the mission s
and on the same date 690 aboriginal children were receiving inst
in schools. During the year a sum of £17,312 was expended
aborigines. There are altogether in the colony 110 reserves
aborigines, the total area being 25,338 acres. At the Census
only 1,673 aborigines were enumerated; the returns for 1891 m
however, be taken as showing an increase, but as proving that
previous Census the aboriginals passed over as being in a wi
far outnumbered those within the bounds of civilisation.

It has been the misfortune of the aboriginal of Australia, as
of the Carribee, the North American Indian, and the Hottento
found in the way of European colonisation; and the black has
the white man take possession of his territory without m
attempt, by deeds of cunning and of blood, to stop the invasion
avenge the injury. It would be easy to gather from the records of
colonisation in Australia many instances of horrible crimes co
by the aborigines, who are, in fact, partakers of the worst pa
human nature. But it must not be forgotten that, amongst the
of British origin who settled upon the land formerly occupied
blacks alone, were many whose crimes against the aborigines
equalled in atrocity any committed by that unfortunate race. C
and ferocity were the natural concomitants of such a struggl
the remembrance of what cunning and ferocity have done tends
the colonists slow to recognise any characteristics of an opposi
in the blacks. There is, however, evidence from the songs and ch
traditions of the aborigines,* that they are by no means destitute
qualities in which civilised men glory—such as the power of in
tragic and sarcastic fiction, the thirst for religious mystery, stoi
tempt of pain, and reverence for departed friends and ancestors
manner in which they have displayed these characteristics presen
a strange mixture of wisdom and folly, of elevating and de
thoughts, of interesting and repulsive traditions, of pathet
grotesque observances, that in order to account for the apparent
dictions recourse must be had to the supposition that this r
descended from an ancient and higher civilisation, of which its
have retained some memorials.

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* *Vide* Kamilaroi and other Australian Languages, by Rev. W. Ridley,

VITAL STATISTICS.

Conjugal Condition of the People.

WHEN the Census enumeration was made in New South Wales on the 5th April, 1891, information was obtained respecting the conjugal condition of the people. Exclusive of 8,280 aborigines, the population of the colony was ascertained to be 1,123,954. Of this number, there were 424,286 unmarried males and 324,378 unmarried females, including children who had not reached a marriageable age; 16,905 widowers and 25,799 widows; 178 divorced men and 126 divorced women; and 166,634 husbands and 165,648 wives. The number of married couples living together was 141,656, so that it will be seen that on the night on which the Census was taken 24,978 married men were not residing with their wives, and 23,992 married women not residing with their husbands. These married people who were not living with their husbands and wives included not only those persons who had obtained a judicial separation or otherwise had come to an agreement to live apart in consequence of domestic infelicity, but, of course, such as were unavoidably separated through the exigencies of business affairs or had temporarily parted for the purpose of seeking a change in the interest of health or enjoyment. It is obvious that the conditions of settlement in New South Wales are such that many men must of necessity have been absent from their wives at the time of the Census; but after due allowance has been made on this score, it must be confessed that there are many wives who have been deserted by, or are permanently separated from, their husbands. Indeed, there is evidence to warrant the supposition that the number of such women is not less than 11,000, and if to these be added the number of widows a total of 37,000 widowed and deserted women is obtained out of 191,500 females who had taken marriage vows.

There are, of course, no means of readily identifying a married woman living in one part of the colony as the wife of a man residing in another, so that for the purpose of instituting a comparison between the ages, nationality, and religions of married people, only the 141,656 couples living together at the time of the Census can be taken. It is interesting to note, however, that some of the married people who were not living together were decidedly young. Two of the husbands were boys of 16; six were only 17 years of age; thirteen were one year older; twenty-one were 19 years of age; and fifty-nine were only 20 years old.

On the other hand, four of the wives were girls of 15; eightee one year older; forty-seven were 17 years of age; and over one h were but 18 years old. The ages of the married couples living to are given below. The total of 141,656 is inclusive of forty-six in which the husband's age was not stated, 29 cases in whi wife's age was not stated, and forty-six cases in which neither of the husband nor that of the wife was given:—

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.										
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60-69	70 and upwards	No stat
Under 20........	53	23	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-24	1,101	3,800	798	79	16	8	1	..	..	..	
25-29	956	8,164	9,349	1,647	231	45	12	6	1	..	
30-34	279	3,908	10,710	8,997	1,590	251	50	20	2	..	
35-39	77	1,090	4,661	8,601	6,782	1,261	274	70	14	1	
40-44	18	305	1,406	3,911	5,841	4,886	935	243	11	4	
45-49	8	106	531	1,626	3,214	4,940	4,143	958	35	3	
50-59	6	82	268	791	1,587	3,353	5,781	8,168	707	38	
60-69	1	12	39	78	187	458	844	4,120	3,085	311	
70 and upwards..	1	..	8	10	23	50	90	652	1,415	1,314	..
Not stated	2	5	5	7	2	3	..	5	..	..	
Wives	2,502	17,495	27,779	25,747	19,473	15,255	12,130	14,242	5,270	1,671	

While the majority of marriages had evidently been entered persons of suitable ages, in some cases there was a great di between the ages of the contracting parties, and the figures also not a few very youthful unions. In the table given all married under 20 years of age have been classed in one group; but the show that a child of 14 years was married to a man over 21 y age; two girls of 15, to men over 30 years of age; and two girls o men over 40 years of age. In three cases of wives aged 17 yea greater disparities were observable, in two of the cases the h being over 50 years, and in the third case over 70 years of age it was also disclosed that three girls of 19 were married to men years of age, a woman under 30 to a man over 80, and a woman 40 to a man over 85 years old. On the other hand, in several ca wife was a great deal older than the husband. For instanc women over 75 years of age were mated with men under 45; a over 70 was married to a man under 40; and another, over 65, to not yet 30 years of age. Three husbands were set down as o years of age, and there were five wives over 95 years of ag youngest husbands were three of 17 years, each of whom was to a girl slightly older than himself; in fact, the united ages of th couples only amounted to 108. The youngest wife was 14 years were twelve wives of 15 years of age; and ninety-two of 16 years

The average age of husbands was 41·43 years, and that o 36·96 years, showing a difference of four years and a half in fa res. The average age of widows was 55 years. There were 8 under 20 years of age; 4,091 between 20 and 40 years of age; between 40 and 60 years of age; 10,227 over 60 years of age; whose ages were not stated.

BIRTHPLACES OF MARRIED PEOPLE.

ie 1893 and 1894 editions of this book the nationalities of the 3 married couples who dwelt together at the Census of 1891 are It is there shown that 51,492 husbands were New South nen, of whom 41,403 had married natives of the colony; 3,714, i or Welsh women; 2,146, Irish women; and 1,698, natives of ghbouring colony of Victoria. The wives born in New South numbered 69,707. In addition to the 41,403 who had married of the colony, 13,670 had married Englishmen or Welshmen; Irishmen; 2,784, Scotsmen; and 2,334, natives of Victoria. In outh Wales there were 5,134 husbands and 6,634 wives who Victoria as their birthplace, but in only 1,623 cases did both d and wife hail from that colony. The number of wives i the other Australasian provinces was in every case greater he number of husbands. This was especially the case with land, the northern colony furnishing 1,155 wives and only sbands. In only 60 cases, however, did both husband and wife to Queensland.

RELIGIONS OF MARRIED PEOPLE.

following table shows the religious professions of the 141,656 l couples who were living together when the Census was taken:—

of Husbands.	Religions of Wives.										
	Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan and other Methodist.	Baptist.	Congregationalist.	Lutheran.	Salvation Army.	Other Christian Sects.	Jews.	Other Religions.
England ..	55,391	5,832	1,501	1,159	204	202	31	131	73	34	92
tholic	3,028	26,253	361	106	17	37	35	13	75	9	27
an	1,978	853	11,247	296	62	60	8	24	28	1	24
and other st	954	304	277	13,263	88	44	9	78	21	..	26
....	230	57	58	93	1,481	34	..	11	16	1	3
onalist	277	89	57	79	43	2,957	2	6	8	..	6
....	453	278	103	76	12	26	666	6	15	..	9
rmy	95	25	14	87	3	12	2	1,154	3	..	6
stian Sects..	290	148	56	82	14	25	8	11	1,370	1	26
....	111	28	11	8	..	..	1	1	5	675	2
ions	1,617	770	299	412	106	113	15	47	87	11	2,407

The total number of husbands and of wives belonging to each of the principal denominations, with the number of cases in which both parties were adherents to the same Church, will be found below:—

Denominations.	Husbands with Wives at home at time of Census.	Wives with Husbands at home at time of Census.	Married Couples both of the same Denomination.
Church of England	64,650	64,424	55,391
Roman Catholic	30,051	34,637	26,253
Presbyterian	14,581	13,984	11,247
Wesleyan and other Methodists	15,064	15,751	13,263
Baptist	1,984	2,030	1,481
Congregational	3,524	3,510	2,957
Lutheran	1,644	777	666
Salvation Army	1,401	1,482	1,134
Other Christian Sects	2,031	1,701	1,370
Jews	842	732	675
Other Religions	5,884	2,628	2,407

No very remarkable differences are disclosed by these tables; indeed, in point of religious opinions, as well as in nationality, the married couples were fairly well matched. Of 64,650 husbands and 64,424 wives belonging to the Church of England, there were 55,391 couples who both adhered to that denomination; and of 30,051 husbands and 34,637 wives attached to the Church of Rome, there were 26,253 cases in which both parties were Roman Catholic. There were, therefore, only 9,259 male and 9,033 female members of the Church of England who had married out of their own communion; while among the Roman Catholics only 3,798 males and 8,384 females had contracted mixed marriages. Similar consistency will be noticed in respect to the other principal denominations. Among the Presbyterians there were 11,247 couples who both belonged to that Church, while 3,334 males and 2,737 females had married persons of other religious bodies. Only 1,801 male and 2,488 female Methodists had married persons of other denominations, although there were 13,263 cases in which both husband and wife were Methodists.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

The law relating to marriages is contained in four Acts of Parliament; the principal of which is Act 19 Vic. No. 30, "An Act to Amend and Consolidate the Laws affecting the solemnization of Marriage." This Act determines that the marriage ceremony is to be performed by an officiating minister duly registered for that purpose; but it is provided that, in cases where the contracting parties conscientiously object to a religious ceremony, or where the services of a minister are not avail they may sign a declaration to that effect, and be married by a Dis

strar. The Act further provides for the signing of a declaration
oth parties to the effect that they believe there is no impediment in
way of or lawful objection to their marriage on account of relation-
former marriage, want of consent in case of minors, or on other
nds. The written consent of the father must be produced by a minor,
ould the father not reside in New South Wales, of the mother or
dian, and in the absence of these, of a magistrate specially appointed
give consent to the marriage of minors." The marriage ceremony is
celebrated in the presence of two witnesses. Penalties for wilfully
ying minors, or for aiding and abetting in doing so, are imposed,
naximum being a fine of £500, or imprisonment for five years.
ery in connection with forms of consent, etc., is punishable with
years' hard labour or hard labour on the roads.
ct 19 Vic. No. 34, "An Act for Registering Births, Deaths, and
riages," provides for the registration of officiating ministers, and for
ransmission by them to the District Registrars of copies of certifi-
. District Registrars are to forward these copies to the General
stry Office, where they are indexed for future reference. Act 42
No. 5, the "Clergy Returns Transfer Act," provided for the handing
to the General Registry Office of registers previously kept by
in of the clergy. Act 55 Vic. No. 34, the "Marriages Validation
Marriage Law Amendment Act," validated marriages, celebrated
the passing of Act 19 Vic. No. 30, in which the required declaration
not signed, and provided that henceforth the declaration should be
rsed on the back of the marriage certificate. Omission to sign it
de punishable as a misdemeanour.

MARRIAGES.

e greatest number of marriages registered in New South Wales
ng any one year down to 1895 was in 1891, when it reached 8,457.
re the latter year the increase in number had been remarkably
ly, very few checks being experienced; indeed, during the eleven
extending from 1875 to 1886 the increase was uninterrupted.
ng 1892, 1893, and 1894, however, the number of marriages,
ite the growth of population, steadily declined; but 1895 saw an
ase of 364 over the number celebrated in the previous year, and
may be taken as evidence of the feeling in the community that the
ls of depression were then lifting from the colony. An examina-
of the annual marriage rates shows, however, that there has been a
d tendency to fall since 1883, when the rate stood at 8·83 per
of mean population. In 1894 it was as low as 6·20, and in 1895
ered to the extent of 0·15 per 1,000 inhabitants. These rates,
ll be seen from the table given below, were the lowest experienced
g the last twenty years. The improvement manifested in 1895
continued in 1896, when the rate reached the point of 6·60 per

1,000, and the number of marriages, 8,495, was the highest yet recorded:—

Year.	Marriages registered.	Per 1,000 of mean population.	Year.	Marriages registered.	Per 1,000 of mean population.
1877	4,994	7·94	1888	7,844	7·57
1878	5,317	8·08	1889	7,530	7·06
1879	5,391	7·80	1890	7,876	7·15
1880	5,572	7·65	1891	8,457	7·39
1881	6,284	8·21	1892	8,022	6·79
1882	6,948	8·70	1893	7,749	6·40
1883	7,405	8·83	1894	7,666	6·20
1884	7,482	8·47	1895	8,030	6·35
1885	7,618	8·22	1896	8,495	6·60
1886	7,811	8·06			
1887	7,590	7·55	Mean for 20 years		7·42

The year 1883 was distinguished by a high marriage-rate not only in the case of New South Wales, but in most of the other Australasian colonies as well. Since that time the rates then recorded have not been exceeded in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania; but, on the contrary, with the exception of an individual year here and there, have all shown a steady tendency to fall. As in the other countries of the world, the marriage-rate in Australasia is an index to the state of general prosperity, evincing, however, an eagerness to anticipate an improvement in industrial conditions, and a reluctance to accept the evidences of the approach of times of depression. Probably the year 1883 marked the end of a long period of lavish public expenditure, reducing the number of those who were in a position to take upon their shoulders the responsibilities of married life—the inability to enter into the married state being confirmed later on by the bad years of which the colonies had experience. In addition to the four provinces mentioned, New Zealand also had its highest marriage rate of recent years about the same time, namely, in 1884, since which year the rate has likewise steadily fallen. In Western Australia the rate has fluctuated considerably. So recently as 1891 it was higher than in any year since 1868; but the great influx of men who have left their women folk in the other colonies has in this case doubtless been the cause of the reduction in the number of marriages proportionately to population during the last few years.

For the year 1896 the average marriage-rate per 1,000 of population in the whole of Australasia was 6·54. The rate of New South Wales was, as already stated, 6·60; that of Victoria, was 6·48; of Queensland, 6·05; of South Australia, 6·09; of Western Australia, 8·82; of Tasmania, 5·91; and of New Zealand, 6·86. The average annual rate for Australasia during the last ten years was 6·79 per 1,000 of population. The colony with the smallest average rate during the decade is New Zealand; and Western Australia has the highest average rate for the same time, Victoria coming next in order, although the rate of the latter

d be exceeded by Queensland if a longer period were taken.
es her high rate to the comparatively large number of
elebrated in that colony during the five years from 1887
From 1861 to 1886 the rate of New South Wales was
higher than that of the Southern colony. During the next
owever, Victoria had the advantage, only to lose it in 1892,
year New South Wales has again had the higher rate.
ten years ended 1896 the colonies which had a marriage-
he Australasian average were:—

tern Australia	7·39	per 1,000 of population.	
oria	7·11	,,	,,
nsland	7·07	,,	,,
South Wales	6·87	,,	,,

had a lower rate were:—

h Australia	6·44	,,	,,
ania	6·25	,,	,,
Zealand	6·16	,,	,,

ison of the marriage-rates of various countries is apt to be mis-
account of the different conditions of life prevailing therein.
nparing the Australian rate with the rates of foreign countries,
borne in mind that, on the one hand, the superior condition
ing classes and the preponderance of unmarried adult males
ies favour a high marriage-rate; while, on the other hand,
ory habits of a large part of the male population often
ertain amount of extravagance and selfishness, and tend,
a diminution of the rate. The table given below shows the
rriage-rates of a number of European countries for the
rs, 1871–90, and the annual rates for the years 1891, 1892,
1894. The information is taken from the report of the
neral of England:—

Country.	Average of 20 years, 1871-90.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Kingdom	7·2	7·3	7·3	7·0	7·1
d and Wales...	7·8	7·8	7·7	7·4	7·5
d	7·0	7·0	7·1	6·6	6·7
....	4·5	4·6	4·7	4·7	4·7
rk	7·6	6·8	6·8	7·0	6·9
y	6·9	6·6	6·4	6·4	6·4
n	6·6	5·8	5·7	5·7	......
a	8·2	7·7	7·8	7·9	7·9
ry	9·6	8·6	9·2	9·3	......
rland	7·4	7·1	7·4	7·4	7·4
n Empire	8·2	8·0	7·9	7·9	7·9
....	8·4	8·2	8·1	8·1	8·1
lands	7·6	7·1	7·2	7·3	7·2
m	7·1	7·5	7·7	7·6	7·5
....	7·7	7·4	7·5	7·5	7·5
....	7·8	7·6	7·5	7·5	7·5

In 1895 the marriage-rate of England and Wales was 7·5 per thous of Scotland, 6·8 per thousand ; and of Ireland 5·1 ; the general rat the United Kingdom being 7·2 per thousand. It may be advi to point out that the above figures show the ratio of marriag population ; to ascertain the ratio of persons married it is ther necessary to double the figures in each case.

ILLITERACY DISPLAYED BY MARRIAGE REGISTERS.

The number of persons signing the marriage register with marks steadily declined for many years past. In 1871 the proportion of si tures made with marks was 16·96 per cent. of the whole, while in the percentage had fallen to 2·19, the decrease in illiteracy being t fore highly satisfactory. As will be seen from the table appended, greatest proportion of signatures affixed by means of marks has al been supplied by the country districts. In both the country and metropolis, however, the number of persons signing with marks steadily fallen, the percentage in 1896 being only 2·59 for country and 1·67 for the metropolis, as compared with 18·92 and respectively in 1871 :—

Year.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.	Year.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New Wa
1871	13·50	18·92	16·96	1892	2·35	3·63	3·
1876	6·54	16·71	10·47	1893	1·50	2·67	2·
1881	5·05	8·34	6·94	1894	1·26	2·43	1·
1886	2·89	5·00	3·98	1895	1·61	2·49	2·
1891	2·26	3·78	3·08	1896	1·67	2·59	2·

The amount of illiteracy, as displayed by inability to sign the marr register in the proper manner, was for many years greater amo females than males. The returns show that such was the case in e year from 1871 until 1887. With the exception of 1894, however, proportion of females signing with marks has been less than th males during the last eight years. It would therefore appear women are now quite on a par with men in the acquirement of rudiments of education ; and it may also be pointed out that n women refrain from signing their names in the marriage register, from inability to write, but from sheer nervousness. In 1871 the nu of women who were unable to sign their names amounted to nearly fifth of the whole number married ; but the proportion had fall r cent. in 1896. During the same period the male illiterates were ced from the proportion of 14·5 per cent. to 2·3 per cent. :—

Year.	Males signing with marks, per thousand.	Females signing with marks, per thousand.	Year.	Males signing with marks, per thousand.	Females signing with marks, per thousand.
1871	145	194	1892	33	28
1876	96	114	1893	23	20
1881	55	84	1894	19	20
1886	38	42	1895	22	20
1891	32	29	1896	23	20

SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGES.

f every hundred marriages celebrated in New South Wales, about ty-six are solemnised by the clergy. The actual figures for 1896 w that during that year 8,136 marriages were solemnised by clergy 359 witnessed by registrars, giving the proportions of 95·77 and per cent. respectively of the total number of 8,495.

he Church of England celebrates the largest number of marriages, Roman Catholic Church coming next; but in each case the propor- falls short of what might be anticipated from the strength of the rch as shown by the Census returns. This is noticeably the case with Roman Catholic Church. The adherents to that denomination at the sus of 1891 formed 25·34 per cent. of the population, whereas the riages solemnised according to its rites during the year 1896 formed 18·28 per cent. of the whole number of marriages. To bring the ber of Roman Catholic marriages up to the proper proportion they ld be increased nearly 39 per cent. It is plain, therefore, that the erents to this Church either do not marry within their own com- ion, or do not undertake the responsibilities of marriage to the same nt as other members of the community. The latter supposition is btless the correct explanation of the anomaly; for the adherents to Roman Catholic Church are amongst the poorest in the colony, and of means is, perhaps, the chief cause of the comparatively small ber of their marriages, though it is undoubtedly true that what are ed "mixed" marriages are numerous.

he disparity between the number of marriages solemnised by the gy of the Church of England and what might be expected from the erical strength of the denomination is also very great. During the 1896 there were celebrated 2,979 marriages according to the rites his Church, being 35·07 per cent. of the total marriages, while the entage of its adherents, as shown by the Census of 1891, was

44·42. A glance at the following table will show that the number marriages celebrated during 1896 by ministers of other denominatio notably those of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, an Baptist Churches, far exceeded their apparent due proportions :—

Denomination.	No. of Marriages.	Percentage of total Marriages.	Percentage of adherents to total population, Census 1891.
Church of England	2,979	35·07	44·12
Roman Catholic	1,553	18·28	25·34
Presbyterian	964	11·35	9·66
Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist	1,143	13·46	9·66
Congregational	295	3·47	2·13
Baptist	159	1·87	1·16
Hebrew	30	0·35	0·48
Other Denominations	1,013	11·92	7·12
Registrars' Offices	359	4·23	....

The following table shows the number of marriages registered by th principal denominations during the last eight years :—

Denomination.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Church of England	2,885	3,126	3,323	3,216	3,022	2,915	[illegible]	[illegible]
Presbyterian	979	965	1,142	1,055	983	1,042	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wesleyan Methodist	753	798	885	816	862	821	831	[illegible]
Primitive Methodist	271	256	282	241	218	167	204	[illegible]
United Methodist Free Church	....	12	36	29	30	20	23	[illegible]
Methodist Episcopal Church	....	....	....	....	....	....	272	[illegible]
Independent Methodist Church	....	....	....	....	....	....	124	....
Lay Methodist	....	....	....	....	8	14	25	[illegible]
Baptist	167	118	118	119	121	120	218	[illegible]
Independent Baptist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	[illegible]
Independent, Congregationalist	546	540	500	456	386	351	313	[illegible]
German Evangelical, Lutheran	28	23	17	19	17	23	25	[illegible]
Bible Christian	....	....	18	13	11	17	27	[illegible]
Christian, Church of Christ	28	33	15	17	14	154	97	[illegible]
Catholic Apostolic Church	4	5	....	2	2	....	....	1
Society of Friends (Quakers)	1	....	1	1	....	....	....	1
Swedenborgian, New Church	4	1	....	1	....	....	....	1
Bethel Union	....	....	....	....	10	45	21	....
Gospel Temperance Church	....	....	....	....	....	....	56	[illegible]
Salvation Army	26	41	37	44	29	29	35	[illegible]
Unitarian	6	10	11	9	6	114	210	[illegible]
Other Sects	....	1	2	35	4	11	13	[illegible]
Roman Catholic	1,288	1,373	1,510	1,469	1,462	1,361	1,416	[illegible]
Hebrew	35	23	23	14	21	20	30	[illegible]
District Registrars	500	551	537	466	543	442	336	[illegible]
Total Marriages	7,530	7,876	8,457	8,022	7,749	7,666	8,030	[illegible]

During the last two or three years there have come into existen certain institutions, named "Matrimonial Agencies," which combine t easy formalities of a district registrar's office with the attendance of clergyman. It is to the connection of certain clergymen with the

ions that the increase in the number of marriages performed
ng to the rites of some of the smaller denominations during the
894 to 1896 is due.

Age at Marriage.

New South Wales marriage registers give no information respect-
ages of bride and bridegroom at the time of marriage. Sufficient
n, however, to warrant the assumption that these ages corres-
osely with those of persons married in Victoria, namely, 29·5
or males and 25·1 years for females. An examination of the
an figures for recent years shows that in about 58 per cent. of
es the husband is older than the wife; in about 33 per cent.
s of both parties are nearly equal; and in the remaining 9 per
e wife is older than the husband. About 2·26 per cent. of
ooms are minors; 68·65 per cent. are between 21 and 30 years;
er cent. between 30 and 40; 5·73 per cent. between 40 and 50;
remaining 4·07 per cent. over 50 years old. Of brides, 21·00
t. are found to be minors; 65·62 per cent. are between 21 and
6 per cent. between 30 and 40; 2·93 per cent. between 40 and
l 1·29 per cent. over 50 years old.

these figures it may be concluded that the marriage age of
in New South Wales is some years lower than that of males.
Census of 1891, the average age of the married males in the
was found to be 41·43 years, and that of the married females
ears. This showed a difference of 4·47 years, which agrees with
mated average age at marriage given above, and with the differ-
the average ages of the parents of children born in the colony
the last three years, namely, 4·75 years.

ord is kept of the number of minors married in the colony.
lowing table gives the number of males and females under the
1 years who were married during the ten years 1887–96 :—

Year.	Minors.		Percentage of—	
	Bride-grooms.	Brides.	Bride-grooms.	Brides.
1887	181	1,911	2·38	25·18
1888	195	2,002	2·48	25·52
1889	169	1,955	2·24	25·96
1890	149	1,931	1·89	24·52
1891	177	2,085	2·09	24·65
1892	177	1,889	2·21	23·55
1893	177	1,993	2·28	25·72
1894	167	1,905	2·18	24·85
1895	207	1,942	2·58	24·18
1896	212	2,065	2·50	24·31

During the year 1896 there were registered in New South Wales

Marriages between—

Bachelors and Spinsters		7,377
,,	Widows	372
,,	Divorced Women	33
Widowers and Spinsters		368
,,	Widows	256
,,	Divorced Women	15
Divorced Men and Spinsters		47
,,	Widows	5
,,	Divorced Women	2
Total		8,495

Similar information is available for the nine years extending fr 1888 to 1896. Taking this period as a basis, it may be said that o of every 10,000 marriages celebrated in the colony, there will between—

Bachelors and Spinsters		8,651
,,	Widows	505
,,	Divorced Women	36
Widowers and Spinsters		500
,,	Widows	269
,,	Divorced Women	9
Divorced Men and Spinsters		24
,,	Widows	4
,,	Divorced Women	2
Total		10,000

As very few marriages are contracted by males before the age 21 or after that of 50, or by females before the age of 18 or after th of 45, for the purpose of ascertaining the probability of marriage th population of other ages than these may be omitted from consideratio The mean number of marriageable males during 1888–96 was 136,63 and of females, 85,737. These comprised 130,234 bachelors, 6,39 widowed and divorced males, 79,100 spinsters, and 6,637 widows an divorced females. From these figures it would appear that the annu marriage rate per thousand is, approximately, for bachelors, 56; f widowers and divorced men, 101; for spinsters, 92; and for widows an divorced women, 99. As regards the probability of marriage, therefor the widower holds the highest place and the bachelor the lowest, whi the widow has a slight advantage over the spinster.

DURATION OF LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE.

Although the ages of the parties contracting marriage are not insert in the marriage registers, the information may be obtained indirect from the death registers, which contain many interesting particula relating to the life of the person whose death is recorded. Fr the information thus obtained it is possible to establish the avera tion of life after marriage. Tables giving detailed information on subject will be found in the *Annual Report on Vital Statistics.* this volume the appended figures, which relate to the four years –6, and which deal with 10,652 married males and 9,905 married les whose ages both at the time of marriage and of death were rn, must suffice. It has not been deemed advisable to deal with narriages of males under the eighteenth or over the fiftieth year, f females under the sixteenth or over the forty-third year, as the es are too small to possess any significance:—

Age at Marriage.	Period lived after Marriage.		Age at Marriage.	Period lived after Marriage.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
years.	years.	years.	years.	years.	years.
16	......	38·6	34	27·8	30·7
17	......	34·3	35	29·5	30·7
18	36·9	34·3	36	28·7	30·7
19	38·2	31·2	37	28·2	28·9
20	35·6	32·8	38	28·2	26·5
21	35·1	28·3	39	25·0	29·1
22	34·0	30·9	40	29·4	27·0
23	31·5	29·8	41	23·8	26·1
24	30·1	29·5	42	23·1	30·1
25	31·4	31·1	43	26·8	20·8
26	28·3	29·2	44	22·6	......
27	29·3	30·8	45	24·0	......
28	27·7	30·9	46	22·0	......
29	28·4	27·1	47	19·2	......
30	30·8	31·1	48	20·9	......
31	26·6	29·7	49	21·9	......
32	26·0	27·7	50	24·3	......
33	28·2	29·0			

ese averages must not be taken as representing the expectation e of persons marrying at each of the ages set down. This expecta- of life of married persons has not been established, although the site data are available. So far as the investigation has proceeded, ver, it confirms the popular opinion that the length of life to the ment of which a married person may look forward is greater than of the unmarried, both female and male, at the same age.

FECUNDITY OF MARRIAGES.

e death records of the colony also show the issue, both living and of the deceased. During the four years 1893–6 there died 11,699 ed males and 10,665 married females. The children of these

11,699 men numbered 61,557, giving an average of 5·26 to each mar man. The registrations of death showed that of these children 22, males and 22,871 females were alive, and 7,939 males and 6,784 fem were dead. The total issue of the 10,665 married women numb 54,632 children, or an average of 5·12 to each woman. Of this num 20,294 male and 19,618 female children were alive, and 7,771 n and 6,949 female children were dead. An analysis of the figures sh that at each age at marriage the average number of children result from the unions was as set down below. It is necessary to state t in cases where the deceased was married more than once, the age at first marriage only is noted in the table, while the total family, whet the fruit of one or more than one marriage, is included. The ta shows only three children as issue of females who married after reach age 45 :—

Age at Marriage.	Average number of Children resulting from marriage of—		Age at Marriage.	Average number of Children resulting from marriage of—	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
years.	years.	years.	years.	years.	years.
13	......	8·50	41	3·41	0·95
14	......	5·62	42	3·56	1·13
15	......	7·40	43	4·18	0·70
16	5·89	7·16	44	3·20	0·31
17	5·09	6·98	45	3·50	0·12
18	6·16	6·61	46	3·16	......
19	7·52	6·59	47	3·47	0·17
20	6·43	6·10	48	3·13	0·40
21	6·59	5·57	49	4·10	......
22	6·41	5·49	50	2·27	......
23	6·14	5·38	51	1·67	......
24	6·11	5·05	52	1·83	......
25	6·12	4·74	53	1·00	......
26	5·58	4·20	54	1·24	......
27	5·80	4·32	55	2·06	......
28	5·39	4·02	56	0·20	......
29	5·24	3·74	58	0·33	......
30	5·13	3·58	59	1·00	......
31	4·65	3·20	60	2·21	......
32	4·68	2·85	61	0·33	......
33	5·19	2·71	62	0·57	......
34	4·72	2·46	63	0·25	......
35	4·67	2·21	64	1·00	......
36	4·71	1·84	66	2·00	......
37	4·90	1·46	Not stated	2·00	2·24
38	4·73	0·96			
39	4·34	1·34			
40	4·34	0·83	Average..	5·26	5·12

he difference between the number of children born to males and to ales is explained by the larger number of second marriages con-ted by men. If it were not for this fact, the averages of males and ales would, of course, be the same.

he average number of children born to a marriage in each of the stralasian colonies, during the decennial period, 1887-96, is shown ow :—

Colony.	Average number of Children per marriage.	Colony.	Average number of Children per marriage.
New South Wales...	5·19	Western Australia.	7·20
Victoria	4·64	Tasmania	4·79
Queensland	5·45	New Zealand	5·01
South Australia......	4·49	Australasia...	4·92

The average for New South Wales is established by the previous le. For the other colonies the ordinary empirical formula in use ongst statisticians, *i.e.*, dividing the number of births in any year by marriages occurring in the seventh previous year, has been employed. ere is no doubt that the formula gives somewhat too high an average these colonies, although it works out correctly enough when applied more settled countries. The average number of children to a marriage the United Kingdom is:—

England and Wales	4·52
Ireland	5·04
Scotland	4·93

The figures for Ireland are exceptionally high, which is somewhat prising, as the average age of persons marrying there is much higher n in Australia. The lowest number of children born to a marriage any of the important European countries is in France, where the rage is only 3·08.

The influence which the ages of husband and wife exert on the birth-e is a subject which has attracted a great deal of attention, and tistics which throw any light on this point are much to be desired. far as New South Wales is concerned, the information at present ilable covers only the period of a few years; nevertheless the figures sess very great interest. Dealing only with legitimate natality, the mber of births within the period 1893–5 was 110,597; and with an ustment of the ages of the parents as returned, in order to counteract recognised tendency of the people to state their ages at the nearest nquennial period, such as 20, 25, 30, 35, and so on, it would appear t the probability of a birth in the course of a year from a union in which the age of the husband is between 25 and 60 and the age of the wife between 20 and 40 is as follows:—

Age of Husband.	Age of Wife.				
	20 years.	25 years.	30 years.	35 years.	40 years.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
25 years	42·6	39·2	36·0	30·0	25·4
30 years	42·0	38·3	34·0	31·0	25·9
35 years	42·7	36·7	32·6	30·0	25·7
40 years	42·6	35·5	30·2	28·5	24·1
45 years	40·0	31·3	27·0	26·5	22·2
50 years	34·5	27·3	25·8	24·2	20·8
55 years	26·8	25·1	24·0	23·0	18·7
60 years	24·3	23·2	22·6	21·0	15·5

The age of the wife is by far the more important factor in determining the birth-rate. As that advances, it is seen that there is a sharp decline in the probability of child-birth at each quinquennial period of life, the tendency being towards a heavier fall at each successive stage. On the other hand, with a young wife of 20 years the percental birth-rate remains about the same until the husband passes the age of 40; and even in cases in which the woman is considerably older, the probability of birth at any fixed period of life only becomes greatly diminished after the man has passed the fortieth year. Thus, an examination of the table will show that if the husband is 25 years and the wife 20 years the probability of a birth during twelve months is 42·6 per cent., and the same rate obtains where the husband is 40 and the wife 20; but if the wife is 40 years of age as well as the husband the probability is reduced to 24·1 per cent. Further, in a case where the husband is aged 50 years and the wife 25 years the percental birth-rate is 27·3, which, however, declines to 20·8 if the wife is 40 years old.

Mr. Galton, F.R.S., from data furnished by Joseph Körösi, Director of Municipal Statistics at Budapest, and compiler of some interesting natality tables based on data collected in the Hungarian capital city, deduces a theory to the effect that, provided the age of the husband exceeds that of the wife and the woman has not approached too closely to the limit of the child-bearing age, the difference between the ages of the couple has nothing to do with the probability of birth in nine cases out of ten, the percental birth-rate being determined by the sum of the two ages; that as the sum of the two ages increases the percental birth-rate decreases; and that in consequence of the operation of this curious law the result obtained by adding the percental birth-rate to the sum of the ages of father and mother is so [illegible] the same, no matter what the united ages of the parents may be, that it is possible to establish a constant number—93 or 94 for the population of Budapest—which will in any case give the probability of birth during a year by merely subtracting from it the sum of the ages of and and wife. Thus, it is desired to know what is the probability of ld being born to a certain couple in the course of a year, the age of usband being 40 and that of the wife 29. Adding these ages to- er, a sum of 69 is obtained, and deducting this number from the tant 93, a remainder of 24 is the result; that is to say, the proba- y of a child being born to this couple within the twelve months d be ·24, or, as near as possible, amongst four couples of these ages ild would be born to one couple every year. If it were proved within the limitations previously mentioned, the sum of the ages e husband and wife generally determined the percental birth-rate, discovery would be a very important one; but however true this ry may be in respect to the population of Budapest, investigation proved that it does not apply to the people of New South Wales.

DIVORCES.

e grounds on which divorces and judicial separations are granted ew South Wales will be found set forth in the chapter dealing "Law and Crime." Since the passing of the amending Act of , by which the grounds of divorce were greatly increased, the ess of the Divorce Court has grown enormously. Indeed, so much has been the case that out of a total of 2,249 petitions for divorce and for judicial separation presented to the Court from 1873 to the end 896, no less than 1,593 petitions for divorce and 102 for judicial ation were presented in the last five years. Of the 2,249 petitions ivorce—644 of which were presented *in forma pauperis*—67 were issed and 436 were not proceeded with to 31st December, 1896. In the ining 1,746 cases decrees *nisi* were granted, of which 1,544 had been absolute, and 202 had not been made absolute to 31st December, . Of the 169 petitions for judicial separation, 8 were dismissed, 81 not proceeded with, and the remaining 80 were granted. During eriod of twenty-four years there were only 16 petitions for nullity arriage. Of these, 3 were not proceeded with, and the remaining 13 granted. Of 13 petitions for restitution of conjugal rights, 2 were issed and 9 not proceeded with. In only two cases were decrees granted, and of these two decrees one had been made absolute to December, 1896.

fore the new Act came into force on the 6th August, 1892, no ce causes were tried at Circuit Courts. Since this procedure has allowed, however, it has not been followed to any great extent, only etitions having been considered in the country districts during hree years and a half.

the 1,746 successful suits for divorce the husband was the ioner in 619 cases, and the wife in 1,127; in the 80 suits for ial separation the husband was the petitioner in 8 cases, and the in 72; while of the 13 decrees for nullity of marriage, 7 were ted at the suit of the husband, and 6 at the suit of the wife. total number of decrees granted at the instance of the husband was, therefore, 634 ; and at the instance of the wife, 1,205. Of ever 100 divorce decrees granted in the colony, the wife has been th petitioner in 66 cases, and the husband in 34.

In three out of every ten successful divorce petitions, relief is soug on more than one ground, and to give a statement of the grounds as th are set forth in the petitions would be to enter into possibly unnecessa detail. The appended table, therefore, only shows the more importa grounds, chief amongst which are adultery, desertion, cruelty, a habitual drunkenness :—

Grounds of Suit.	Divorces (Decrees Nisi) Granted.	Judicial Separation Granted.	Decrees of Nullity of Marriage Granted.	Total.
Adultery	621	14	....	635
,, with habitual drunkenness, etc.	35	2	....	37
Adultery, with cruelty, desertion	253	20	....	273
Bigamy, with adultery	31	....	5	36
Incestuous adultery	2	....	....	2
Desertion	581	1	....	582
Cruelty	17	32	....	49
,, and desertion	18	1	....	19
Habitual drunkenness, with cruelty, desertion	169	10	....	179
Imprisonment for three years	15	....	....	15
Frequent conviction for crime	1	....	....	1
Non-consummation of marriage	2	....	7	9
Lunacy of petitioner	....	....	1	1
Cruelty and attempt to murder by administering poison	1	....	....	1
Total	1,746	80	13	1,839

Of the 1,746 divorce decrees granted up to the end of 1896, 621 were grounded on the act of adultery, 2 on incestuous adultery, and 31 on adultery with bigamy, the respondent having broken the law by going through a form of marriage ; making altogether a total of 654 decrees ; and if to this number be added those cases in which adultery was allied with habitual drunkenness, cruelty, or desertion, or with any two or all three of these grounds, no fewer than 942 decrees are obtained, or 53·9 per cent. of the total number of 1,746. Desertion is a common cause of dissolution of marriage. On this ground alone, as many as 581 decrees, or 33·3 per cent. of the total, were granted ; and the details disclose the fact that in 255 other cases in which divorce wa granted the petitioner had been deserted by the respondent. In o 17 cases of divorce was a decree granted because of cruelty only, b there were 313 other cases in which cruelty was alleged. Habit drunkenness was the principal ground on which the petition was b in 169 cases ; but in only 3 cases was this a single cause of acti drunkenness in the other 166 cases being allied with cruelty, deserti

glect of domestic duties; while in 34 additional divorce cases
l drunkenness was set forth with other reasons as entitling the
ner to a dissolution of the marriage bond. Altogether, therefore,
l drunkenness entered into 203 cases out of 1,746 in which
was granted, or 11·6 per cent.

e 1,839 marriages which resulted in divorce or judicial separation,
ch were nullified, the great majority were celebrated in the
lasian colonies, and more than three-fourths in New South
alone. The actual number celebrated in this colony was 1,430,
per cent. of the total number; and in all Australasia, 1,651, or
r cent. Of the other 188 marriages, 157, or 8·5 per cent., took
the United Kingdom, namely, 129 in England, 11 in Wales, 9
land, and 8 in Ireland. The countries where the other marriages
lebrated are stated below:—

ges celebrated in—	Divorces and Judicial Separations.	Marriages celebrated in—	Divorces and Judicial Separations.
th Wales	1,430	Cape Colony	3
	98	Canada	1
nd	45	Denmark	1
ustralia	18	Italy	1
a.	14	France and New Caledonia	3
land	46	Russia	1
	129	United States	5
	11	China	1
	9	Not stated	6
	8		
	3		
	6	Total	1,839

ough the Roman Catholic Church does not recognise divorce, yet
derable number of marriages solemnised according to the rites of
hurch have been dissolved by the law. Still, the figures are by
ns large when they are viewed in connection with the number
en marriages which had been celebrated by denominations whose
nts form much smaller proportions of the population of the colony.
ut of the 1,839 divorces, judicial separations, and petitions for
of marriage granted to the end of 1896, only 193 of the marriages
en solemnised by the Roman Catholic Church, while the Church
land had solemnised 725, and even the Presbyterians 311. The
an and other Methodist Churches had celebrated 190 of the
ges; the Congregational Church, 139; the Baptist, 29; the
r, 12; and other denominations, 29; while the ceremony in 184
ad been performed at a Registrar's office, and in the remaining
s the Church was not stated.

he 1,826 couples who were divorced or judicially separated, and
couples whose marriage was declared null, 160, or 8·7 per cent.

of the total of 1,839, had been married for a period of less tha
years; no fewer than 631, or 34·2 per cent. of the whole number,
been married for periods ranging from 5 to 10 years; 519, or 28·2
cent., between 10 and 15 years; and 295, or 16·0 per cent., betw
15 and 20 years. In no less than 192 cases the duration of the marri
was between 20 and 30 years; while in 42 cases the period was e
greater, extending, indeed, over 40 years in the case of 6 coup
Marriages of long duration are, therefore, just as liable to be severe
the Divorce Court as those of shorter length. Nor does the posses
of a family deter the aggrieved party from seeking redress at law;
in one case the children numbered 15; in two cases, 14; in one c
12; in five cases, 11; in three cases, 10; in nineteen cases, 9; in
cases, 8; in fifteen cases, 7; in thirty-one cases, 6; in sixty-five ca
5; in ninety-two cases, 4; in 182 cases, 3; in 279 cases, 2; while
429 cases there was one child born to the marriage. It is a fact, h
ever, that in 35·6 per cent. of the cases in which the decree craved
was granted, the ties between the parties had not been strengthened
the birth of children; for of the 1,839 successful petitions for dive
judicial separation, or nullity of marriage, no fewer than 655 affec
parties who were childless, while the number may have been e
larger than this, as in 51 other cases the information did not disc
particulars regarding the fruitfulness of the unions. The number
children affected by the other 1,133 decrees was 2,900, and if allowa
be made on account of the 51 cases referred to, it may possibly h
reached 2,980.

The conjugal condition of the contracting parties to the marria
concerning which the petitions were granted, is shown in the followi
table:—

Conjugal condition of Males.	Conjugal condition of Females.				Total Males
	Spinster.	Widow.	Divorced.	Not stated.	
Bachelor	1,454	62	1	4	1,52
Widower	53	25	1	1	8
Divorced	3	......	1	......	4
Not stated	66	14	......	153	2
Total, Females	1,576	101	3	158	1,

These figures are exclusive of a nullity suit granted on account o
previous existing marriage of the husband.

Among the 1,839 marriages dissolved from 1873 to the close of 18
there were 594 in which the age of either husband or wife, or of bo
when the marriage was contracted, was unknown. Of the remaini
1,245 cases it may be said that the great majority related to marria
contracted between parties of suitable ages, about 703 being betw
husbands of the ages between 21 and 40 years and wives of
ages between 18 and 30 years. In nearly 300 cases, however,

age had been contracted at very early ages, the husband being below ars in 257 cases, and the wife below 18 in 206 cases, while there about 68 cases in which the husband was less than 21 and the wife ian 18 at the time of marriage. There were only about 45 cases ich the husband had been over 40 at the time of marriage, and ian 30 in which the wife had been over 30, while unions in which isband had been over 40 and the wife over 30 numbered but 18. haps the union which presented the most peculiar features was i which the husband was 14 and the wife 15 at the time of age. After a duration of 31 years the bond was severed, at the ice of the husband, on account of the wife's adultery, but ultimately titioner neglected to have the decree made absolute. Another ne case was that of a woman of 35 who married a man of 75, and one year's endurance of her husband's cruelty filed a petition for al separation, which was, however, not further proceeded with.

nationalities of husbands and wives whose marriages were dis- call for no particular comment. Of the husbands, natives of New Wales, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Victoria form the only groups, in the order named; while among the wives the order is ly altered, Victorians coming next to Englishwomen, and Irish- n being more numerous than natives of Scotland. As might be ted, there is a much greater preponderance of natives of New Wales among the wives than among the husbands, the numbers 905 and 653 respectively, while in 607 cases both husband and vere natives of the colony. There were 476 Englishmen and 320 shwomen whose marriages were dissolved, while England was rthplace of both husband and wife in 171 cases. After these nost numerous groups in which husband and wife were natives same country were those of Ireland and Victoria, but in these s there were only 25 and 26 cases respectively. The other groups, t the 18 cases in which both husband and wife were natives of nd, are too small to deserve mention.

statement of the divorces, judicial separations, and decrees of y of marriage granted in New South Wales in five-year periods to and annually during the last four years, will be found below:—

Period.	Divorces (decrees *nisi*) Granted.	Judicial Separations Granted.	Decrees of Nullity of Marriage Granted.	Total.
73-1877	55	......	......	55
78-1882	84	......	......	84
83-1887	139	8	2	149
88-1892	320	30	5	355
93	304	9	1	314
94	369	14	2	385
95	302	11	2	315
96	173	8	1	182
Total..............	1,746	80	13	1,839

It has already been explained that until 1873 the Supreme Court of the colony had no jurisdiction in divorce. From the 1st July in that year down to the end of 1892 the number of divorce decrees granted was 598. In the month of August, 1892, the new Divorce Act had come into force, and in 1893 the number of decrees *nisi* granted rose to 304, and in the following year to 369; while in 1895 the number was still as high as 302. On the basis of the figures of these three years, the number of divorces per 10,000 marriages in New South Wales was 403—an average which placed the colony in the position of having more divorces proportionately to marriages than any other country in the world except the United States and Switzerland. Of course, it is only fair to assume that after the new Act was passed in 1892 advantage was taken of its provisions to dissolve marriages which would have been broken long before had the grounds on which divorce is granted always been the same; and it is not surprising, therefore, to find that the number of divorce decrees granted in 1896 was only 173, as compared with over 300 in each of the preceding three years.

Below will be found a statement showing the average number of divorces per 10,000 marriages in each of the principal countries of the world. The figures are based on a period of ten years wherever possible; hence the average of New South Wales given in the table is lower than the present position of the colony warrants:—

Country.	Divorces per 10,000 marriages.	Country.	Divorces per 10,000 marriages.
Canadian Dominion	4	Belgium	81
United Kingdom	11	Sweden	87
Norway	16	Australasia	94
Queensland	18	Cape Colony	98
South Australia	25	Netherlands	103
Tasmania	38	Germany	165
* Austria Proper	43	France	180
Western Australia	44	New South Wales	189
Greece	50	Roumania	204
New Zealand	58	Switzerland	432
Victoria	71	United States	612

* Including Separations, &c.

In Austria, only, have judicial separations been taken into account in calculating the averages. In that country the civil law only permits of the divorcement of persons who do not belong to the Roman Catholic Church, adherents to this church being restricted to judicial separations except in the few cases in which marriages are annulled by the Pope by a declaration of their invalidity from the beginning. Owing to the great preponderance of the Catholic population, the number of separations is much larger than that of divorces, the annual averages over a

f years being 672 judicial separations, 19 annulments, and 92
, giving a total of 783, equal to 43 marriages dissolved in every
isand. In the United States of America no general system of
tion of births, deaths, and marriages is in force. For the
of comparison, the marriage-rate of that country has been
l to be 6·50 per 1,000 of mean population, and on that basis the
divorces granted annually during ten years would give an
not less than 612 per 10,000 marriages. Of European countries
ivorce laws are in force, no reliable statistics are available with
to Denmark, Hungary, Russia, and Spain; while in Italy and
l divorce is not recognised by law.

e Dominion of Canada divorce was, under the Union Act,
l to the Federal Parliament, but those provinces which had estab-
ivorce courts before the accomplishment of federation, namely,
cotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and British
ia, were permitted to retain the jurisdiction which they already
d. In the remaining provinces, Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba,
e North-west Territories, no divorce courts have been established
constitution of the Dominion, and divorce can only be obtained
lation, the matter being dealt with in each case as an ordinary
Act of Parliament, with this difference, however, that the
requires the production of such evidence in support of the
ion for relief as would be deemed sufficient in a court of law.
a period of ten years, 118 divorces were granted in Canada,
42 by the Dominion Parliament, and 76 by the provincial
ith the exception of that of Prince Edward Island, which has not
anted a single divorce. No general system of registration exists
ominion, but it may be said that the divorces do not exceed 4
y 10,000 marriages. Newfoundland has no divorce law.

BIRTHS.

ean annual birth-rate of the Australasian colonies during the
rs ended 1896 was 32·06 per thousand of population. The
verage was that of Queensland, namely, 35·41; then came New
Vales, with 33·47; Tasmania, with 32·56; South Australia,
90; Victoria, with 31·38; Western Australia, with 30·87; and
land, with 28·69. In all the colonies the birth-rate is declining.
res for 1896 show that in that year the rate in New South
as 28·35 per thousand; in Victoria, 27·28; in Queensland,
in South Australia, 28·00; in Western Australia, 22·77; in
a, 28·16; and in New Zealand, 26·35. The heavy decline in
Australia may be set down to the large influx of male popu-
hich has taken place during the past few years. There can
e a doubt that the depression which has prevailed in the
an colonies for a number of years has not only had an adverse

influenc the marriage-rate, and through the marriage-rate birth-rat , in addition to this, has in many cases led to the ad of artificia c ecks on procreation.

For f comparison, the mean annual birth-rates per thous popul several European countries are given below; and these the high rate of New South Wales becomes still appar ne information is taken from the report of the Reg Gener gland, the figures covering the period of twenty years 1871 t :—

United Kingdom	32·6	Prussia	38
England and Wales	34·0	Austria	38
Scotland	[illegible]	Hungary	44
Ireland	24·9	Holland	35
France	24·6	Belgium	31
Switzerland	29·4	Denmark	31
Italy	37·3	Norway	30
Germany	38·1	Sweden	29

In New South Wales, the births increased year by year from 18 1893, and now exceed those of any other colony. The superiori number rested with Victoria until the year 1879, when the birt New South Wales exceeded those of her southern neighbour b During each of the last seventeen years the excess has been mainta the greatest being in 1886, when it reached 5,460. In 189 difference was 4,388 in favour of New South Wales, although in colony there was a decrease in the number of 2,268 as compared the year 1895.

In no year, as far as observation extends, has the female b exceeded in number those of males. The preponderance of birt male children in New South Wales during a number of years wi seen from the table given below. The figures are exclusive of chil stillborn, the births of which are not required to be registered:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Year.	Males.	Females.
1871	10,326	9,817	20,143	1892	20,532	19,509
1876	11,791	11,507	23,298	1893	20,822	19,520
1881	14,891	14,102	28,993	1894	19,993	18,958
1886	18,700	17,584	36,284	1895	19,877	16,897
1891	20,386	19,072	39,458	1896	18,691	17,815

The excess of males over females born during the pa years has ranged from 2·08 per cent. in 1875 to 7·65

9, the average being 5·05 per cent. The following table shows the nber of males born to every 100 females :—

Year.	Males born to every 100 females.	Year.	Males born to every 100 females.
1871	105·18	1892	105·24
1876	102·47	1893	106·67
1881	105·59	1894	105·46
1886	106·35	1895	105·19
1891	106·89	1896	104·92

A number of theories have been advanced as accounting for the riation in the proportion of male to female births, but as none finds pport in the vital statistics of New South Wales, it is needless to cuss them here. It is the case that in some years the illegitimate rths in the colony show a majority of female children, and during the t twenty-six years the proportion of male to 100 female illegitimate rths has ranged from 94·96 in 1873 to 121·96 in 1876. Excluding illegitimates, the variation in the excess of males over females ranged from 1·71 per cent. in 1876 to 8·06 per cent. in 1889.

Births are more numerous in spring than in any other part of the r, and are fewest in the March quarter. This is found to be the case the other colonies of Australasia as well as in New South Wales. e following table gives the number of births in each quarter of the r since 1877 :—

ar.	Quarter ending—				Year.	Quarter ending—			
	31 March.	30 June.	30 September.	31 December.		31 March.	30 June.	30 September.	31 December.
77	5,620	5,837	6,421	5,973	1887	9,075	9,183	9,890	9,088
78	5,962	6,165	6,976	6,225	1888	9,058	9,651	10,162	9,654
79	6,231	6,591	7,264	6,847	1889	9,125	9,292	9,635	9,243
80	6,590	7,116	7,230	7,226	1890	9,154	9,667	10,497	9,642
81	6,976	6,983	7,514	7,520	1891	9,161	9,662	10,345	10,290
82	7,195	7,273	7,827	7,407	1892	9,753	10,361	9,655	10,272
83	7,378	7,755	8,000	8,148	1893	9,610	10,187	10,578	9,967
84	8,141	8,443	9,160	8,202	1894	9,619	9,981	9,551	9,800
85	8,178	8,508	9,656	8,701	1895	9,394	9,336	10,080	9,964
86	8,451	8,976	9,592	9,265	1896	9,294	9,031	9,153	9,028

Separating the colony into the metropolitan and country districts, it l be seen from the following table that during recent years the birthe per thousand has been higher in the metropolis than in the nainder of the colony. This is due to the proportionately larger nber of females in the metropolitan population as compared with country population, among whom males largely predominate. The hest rate reached for the whole of New South Wales during the last enty years was 38·99 in 1879. The estimated maximum rate for the metropolis was reached in 1885, when the births were 45·46 per thous of the population. In the country districts the greatest number births in proportion to the population occurred in 1879, when the was 38·92 per thousand :—

Year.	Births per thousand of the population.			Year.	Births per thousand of the population.		
	Metropolis.	Country.	New South Wales.		Metropolis.	Country.	New S Wal
1877	37·67	38·02	37·92	1887	43·21	34·31	[illegible]
1878	38·15	38·65	38·50	1888	41·92	35·02	[illegible]
1879	39·18	38·92	38·99	1889	38·73	33·18	[illegible]
1880	39·00	38·73	38·81	1890	37·23	34·44	[illegible]
1881	39·21	37·34	[illegible]	1891	35·95	33·76	[illegible]
1882	40·23	35·90	[illegible]	1892	34·70	33·48	[illegible]
1883	40·81	35·82	37·32	1893	33·52	33·23	[illegible]
1884	44·70	35·75	38·44	1894	31·65	31·38	[illegible]
1885	45·46	35·18	37·79	1895	30·67	30·65	[illegible]
1886	44·53	34·32	37·43	1896	30·06	27·55	[illegible]

The excess of births over dea[illegible] a[illegible]ot shown a steady increase year year, but has fluctuated some[illegible] will be seen from the succeedi table. In the whole colony, du[illegible] twenty years from 1877 to 189 the least excess was 13,982 in 1[illegible] and the highest 25,631 in the ye 1892. In the metropolis the le[illegible] excess was in 1878, viz., 3,186; a the highest in 1892, when the number reached 8,558. In the countr districts the number ranged from 10,658 in 1877 to 17,073 in 1892:—

Year.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.	Per cent. of population at end of previous year.
1877	3,324	10,658	13,982	2·28
1878	3,186	11,379	14,565	2·26
1879	3,947	12,786	16,733	2·49
1880	3,434	13,497	16,931	2·39
1881	4,560	12,897	17,457	2·33
1882	4,608	12,278	16,886	2·16
1883	5,342	13,690	19,032	2·33
1884	5,946	13,780	19,726	2·29
1885	5,773	13,988	19,761	2·18
1886	6,860	14,837	21,697	2·28
1887	7,874	15,914	23,788	2·40
1888	7,449	16,668	24,117	2·36
1889	7,006	15,493	22,499	2·14
1890	7,938	16,804	24,742	2·29
1891	7,588	15,584	23,172	2·07
1892	8,558	17,073	25,631	2·14
1893	7,472	16,848	24,320	2·03
1894	7,406	16,328	23,734	1·94
1895	7,276	16,584	23,860	1·91
1896	6,713	13,954	20,667	1·[illegible]

he mean annual increase to the population by reason of the excess irths over deaths amounts to 2·19 per cent. for a period extending twenty years—that is, going back to the year 1877.

otwithstanding the fact that the males born are more numerous than iles, the actual increase of population from the excess of births over hs is greatly in favour of the females. The male population largely eds the female, and there is a correspondingly larger number of hs of males. There is also a greater mortality amongst male than ngst female children, and from this cause alone the natural excess iale births is almost neutralised. During the ten years which closed 1896, the number of females added to the community by excess of hs exceeded the males by 14,931, or 13·47 per cent.

Ages of Parents.

uring the four years 1893–96 the ages of the women giving birth hildren ranged from 13 to 58 years. As might be expected, the ority of the very young mothers were unmarried; thus of 1,774 hers under 18 years of age, 972 were unmarried. The total number narried women who gave birth to children during the four years 143,188, inclusive of mothers of twins and triplets. The following statement of the number of married mothers at each age:—

Ages of Married Mothers.	Number of Mothers.	Ages of Married Mothers.	Number of Mothers.
14 years	2	35 years and under 40	22,914
15 "	24	40 " " " 45	8,305
16 "	149	45 years	432
17 "	627	46 "	247
18 "	1,464	47 "	122
19 "	2,695	48 "	60
20 "	3,702	49 "	26
21 "	5,251	50 "	4
22 "	6,538	52 "	3
23 "	7,537	53 "	1
24 "	7,973	55 "	2
25 "	8,121	56 "	1
26 "	8,561	58 "	1
27 "	8,216	Not stated	11
28 "	8,505		
29 "	7,711		
30 years and under 35	33,983	Total	143,188

will be seen that in two cases the age of the mother is stated as 55 ; in another case, as 56 years; and in still another case, as 58. hese four cases were outside the usual experience, inquiries were , with the result that the accuracy of the records was confirmed. ay be mentioned that in the first two cases the ages of the fathers 45 years and over 55 years; in the second case, 58 years; and in hird case, 64 years.

The average age of the fathers was about 4·87 years higher than th of the mothers. During the four years 1893–96, the ages of the fathe ranged from 17 to 84 years, as shown below:—

Ages of Fathers.	Number of Fathers.	Ages of Fathers.	Number of Fathers.
17 years	5	66 years	20
18 "	49	67 "	13
19 "	152	68 "	16
20 "	411	69 "	15
21 "	1,167	70 "	11
22 "	2,076	71 "	4
23 "	3,134	72 "	4
24 "	4,152	73 "	3
25 "	5,009	74 "	1
26 "	5,780	75 "	5
27 "	6,447	76 "	1
28 "	7,195	77 "	2
29 "	7,754	78 "	1
30 years and under 35	37,866	79 "	1
35 " " 40	30,597	80 "	1
40 " " 45	17,441	82 "	1
45 " " 50	8,718	83 "	1
50 " " 55	3,566	84 "	1
55 " " 60	1,171	Not stated	22
60 " " 65	349		
65 years	26	Total	143,188

BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS.

A tabulation of the birthplaces of the 286,376 parents mentione above shows that of the fathers, 75,490 were born in New Sout Wales: 9,248 in Victoria; 1,373 in Queensland; 2,847 in Sout Australia; 90 in Western Australia; 1,267 in Tasmania; and 1,288 i New Zealand. The total number of Australasian-born fathers wa therefore, 91,603. Of Australasian-born mothers there were 113,06 viz.:—94,105 natives of New South Wales; 10,544 of Victoria; 2,301 Queensland; 3,534 of South Australia; 103 of Western Australia; 1,1 of Tasmania; and 1,290 of New Zealand. In 63,348 cases both fath and mother were natives of New South Wales; and in 82,879 cases th were natives of one or other of the Australasian colonies.

There were 44,542 fathers born in the United Kingdom, viz.: 26,943 in England; 987 in Wales; 6,674 in Scotland; and 9,938 Ireland. Mothers born in the United Kingdom numbered only 27,6 viz.:—15,088 English; 595 Welsh; 3,887 Scotch; and 8,053 Irish. 18,236 cases both parents were born in the United Kingdom; in 8,1 cases both were English; in 194 cases both Welsh; in 1,955 cases b Scotch; and in 4,027 cases both Irish.

athers born in other British colonies and possessions numbered 795, :—245 born in Asiatic possessions; 167 born in various African essions; 237 in Canada and Newfoundland; 76 in the West Indies, 70 elsewhere. Of 437 mothers, 176 were born in Asiatic posses-s; 107 in African possessions; 58 in Canada; 17 in the West Indies; 79 elsewhere.

oreign-born fathers were more numerous. Amongst them were 2 Germans, 297 Frenchmen, 369 Russians, 114 Austrians, 432 es, 1,002 Swedes and Norwegians, 301 Italians, 389 natives of other opean countries, 249 Chinese, 53 natives of other Asiatic countries, atives of African countries, 570 natives of the United States, 53 ves of other American countries, and 22 Polynesians; total, 5,748. 1,695 foreign-born mothers, 632 were German, 97 French, 114 sian, 27 Austrian, 81 Danish, 62 Swedish or Norwegian, 166 ian, 127 natives of other European countries, 78 natives of China, of other Asiatic countries, 3 of African countries, 230 of the United tes, 18 of other American countries, and 23 of Polynesia. There e only 1,016 cases in which both parents were foreign-born.

Besides the fathers enumerated above, there were 485 who were n at sea, and 15 whose birthplace was not stated. Of mothers there e 360 born at sea, and 11 whose birthplace was not stated.

BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD.

The period elapsing from the date of marriage to the birth of the t child has been ascertained only for the four years 1893 to 1896. e total number of first births occurring during that period was 309. The time which had elapsed since the ceremony of marriage s performed is shown in the following table :—

Period.	Number of Births.	Period.	Number of Births.	Period.	Number of Births.
month and under	830	16 months ...	646	9 years	36
months	785	17 ,, ...	518	10 ,, ...	30
,, ...	1,006	18 ,, ...	438	11 ,, ...	27
,, ...	1,065	19 ,, ...	409	12 ,, ...	19
,, ...	1,166	20 ,, ...	370	13 ,, ...	10
,, ...	1,222	21 ,, ...	337	14 ,, ...	9
,, ...	1,263	22 ,, ...	277	15 ,, ...	10
,, ...	1,205	23 ,, ...	279	16 ,, ...	3
,, ...	3,003	2 years ...	1,683	17 ,, ...	3
,, ...	2,997	3 ,, ...	642	18 ,, ...	2
,, ...	2,033	4 ,, ...	288	22 ,, ...	2
,, ...	1,552	5 ,, ...	176		
,, ...	1,092	6 ,, ...	116	Total ...	27,309
,, ...	879	7 ,, ...	71		
,, ...	751	8 ,, ...	50		

It will be seen that of the 27,309 first births 11,545, or 42· cent., occurred before ten months had elapsed from the dat marriage; and 8,542, or 31·3 per cent., before nine months marriage.

Excluding births occurring within nine months of marriage, average period elapsing from the date of marriage to the birth o first child in fruitful unions is 1·625 years (1 year 7½ months). will be seen from the following table, there is little difference in average period of fruitfulness between women married at var ages :—

Age of Mothers.	Number of Mothers.	Average Period elapsing from Marriage to First Confinement.
		years.
Under 20 years	2,570	1·740
20 and under 25	9,023	1·551
25 " 30	5,085	1·584
30 " 35	1,553	1·818
35 " 40	459	2·031
40 " 45	81	2·741

Of the wives who gave birth to children during the four y ended 1896, the date of marriage was given in 143,179 cases, and f the particulars thus gleaned it would appear that out of every 100, children, 11,576 will be born within a year of their parents' marri 25,792 in one and less than five years; 27,878 in five and less than years; 19,269 in ten and less than fifteen years; 10,454 in fifteen less than twenty years; 4,227 in twenty and less than twenty years; 760 in twenty-five and less than thirty years; and 44 in th years or more.

ILLEGITIMACY.

A statement of the number of illegitimate births in New S Wales is given below. Taking the whole period over whi extends, it will be seen that the percentage has increased y, notably in the city and suburbs of Sydney, the increase in ry districts being very slight :—

Number of Illegitimate Births.			Percentage of Total Births.		
Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.
382	607	989	5·75	3·52	4·14
425	596	1,021	5·94	3·28	4·03
506	709	1,215	6·44	3·72	4·51
561	665	1,226	6·71	3·36	4·35
592	671	1,263	6·64	3·34	4·36
601	660	1,261	6·24	3·28	4·24
676	642	1,318	6·59	3·05	4·21
786	709	1,495	6·62	3·21	4·40
845	767	1,612	6·89	3·37	4·60
905	782	1,687	6·89	3·38	4·65
873	838	1,711	6·50	3·52	4·59
1,049	909	1,958	7·65	3·66	5·08
1,066	921	1,987	7·99	3·84	5·33
1,056	995	2,051	7·81	3·91	5·26
1,149	966	2,115	8·20	3·80	5·36
1,242	1,047	2,289	8·83	4·02	5·71
1,257	1,253	2,510	9·01	4·75	6·22
1,204	1,233	2,437	9·13	4·79	6·26
1,219	1,305	2,524	9·55	5·02	6·51
1,189	1,256	2,445	9·66	5·19	6·70

ng the years since 1871 into quinquennial periods, the average llegitimate births as compared with the total number of births, ppended :—

Quinquennial Period.	Metropolis.	Remainder of Colony.	New South Wales.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1871-75	5·11	3·72	4·09
1876-80	6·21	3·44	4·22
1881-85	6·60	3·25	4·36
1886-90	7·37	3·67	4·90
1891-95	8·93	4·38	6·01
1896	9·66	5·19	6·70

ly the smaller proportion of illegitimate births noticeable in try districts is to some extent due to the fact that women who en come to Sydney to hide their shame. The table given below, the number of accouchements at the Benevolent Asylum, certainl s colour to this supposition, for out of the large nu of unm women whose confinements took place in that instit it is on. onable to suppose that the country contributed a con able qu .

Year.	Confinements.			Year.	Confinements.		
	Total.	Married Females.	Unmarried Females.		Total.	Married Females.	Unm Fe
1865	129	50	79	1881	225	50	[illegible]
1866	129	51	78	1882	237	45	[illegible]
1867	121	44	77	1883	210	33	[illegible]
1868	102	46	[illegible]	1884	305	84	[illegible]
1869	112	40	[illegible]	1885	262	55	[illegible]
1870	95	29	[illegible]	1886	300	71	[illegible]
1871	117	54	[illegible]	1887	257	76	[illegible]
1872	102	37	[illegible]	1888	281	70	[illegible]
1873	107	27	[illegible]	1889	252	48	[illegible]
1874	126	36	90	1890	266	35	[illegible]
1875	113	30	83	1891	324	61	[illegible]
1876	156	38	118	1892	339	54	[illegible]
1877	169	41	128	1893	338	64	[illegible]
1878	160	38	122	1894	393	80	[illegible]
1879	203	45	158	1895	385	89	[illegible]
1880	233	51	182	1896	354	67	[illegible]

The rate of illegitimacy in New South Wales is higher than in of the other Australasian colonies, higher than the general rate of United Kingdom, higher than in England, Wales, and Ireland, lower than in Scotland and in most of the continental countri Europe. Moreover, illegitimacy in New South Wales is increas while in the United Kingdom it is decreasing. The following figu showing the rate of illegitimacy per 100 births in the Australas colonies and in the United Kingdom, are based on a period of years :—

Country.	Illegitimate births per cent.	Country.	Illegitimate births per cent.
New South Wales	6·27	Tasmania	5·01
Victoria	5·50	New Zealand	3·97
Queensland	4·91	England and Wales	4·24
South Australia	3·08	Ireland	2·65
Western Australia	5·29	Scotland	7·38

Of the total number of children born in Australasia during years ended 1896, 5·22 per cent. were illegitimate, as c 4·44 per cent. in the United Kingdom during the five ye he following figures, which give the percentages of illegitimate hs in a number of foreign countries, cover a period of five years :—

Country.	Illegitimate births per cent.	Country.	Illegitimate births per cent.
Germany	9·15	France	8·67
Prussia	7·75	Belgium	8·81
Bavaria	14·17	Netherlands	3·11
Saxony	12·50	Sweden	10·35
Austria	14·73	Norway	7·09
Hungary	8·49	Italy	6·95

Comparing the illegitimate births in New South Wales with the married females between the ages of 17 and 45, it will be found at they number 2,259 per 100,000, the proportion at different age-iods being as follows :—

Ages.	Mothers of Illegitimates per 100,000 Unmarried Women.
17 years	1,218
18 ,,	1,786
19 ,,	2,181
20 years and under 25	2,577
25 ,, ,, 30	2,644
30 ,, ,, 35	2,783
35 ,, ,, 40	2.590
40 ,, ,, 45	925

The period of which the foregoing figures represent the average ibraces only four years, and it is probable that a greater experience uld show that for all ages from 20 to 45, 2·75 per cent. of unmarried men give birth to children.

If the births of illegitimate children be compared with the total nber of confinements, it will be found that for all ages the propor- n of illegitimates is 6·44 per cent. Excluding ages under 15, during the four years 1893–6, the proportion of illegitimate to total co ments is as follows :—

Ages.	Percentage of Illegitimate to total Confinements.
15 and under 20 years	34·66
20 ,, 25 ,,	10·99
25 ,, 30 ,,	4·06
30 ,, 35 ,,	2·49
35 ,, 40 ,,	2·25
40 ,, 45 ,,	1·96

Although there are instances in which a woman has a num family of illegitimate children, illegitimate births are, for the most first births. If, then, the illegitimate births, the births of chi probably conceived before the marriage of their parents—that is to births which have taken place within nine months of marriage— ordinary first births, are set down side by side in various groups ac ing to the ages of the mothers, some very striking results are obtain results which afford matter for very serious reflection. The figure given in the following table, and cover a period of four years :—

Age Group.	Illegitimate Births.		Legitimate Births.			
			Within 9 months of marriage.		9 months and	
	Number.	Per cent. of First Births.	Number.	Per cent. of First Births.	Number.	Per of F Bir
15 and under 20 years......	2,631	39·97	2,178	33·09	1,774	26
20 ,, 25 ,, ...	3,828	22·63	4,432	26·20	8,658	51
25 ,, 30 ,, ...	1,739	19·77	1,399	15·91	5,657	64
30 ,, 35 ,, ...	867	27·14	373	11·67	1,955	61
35 ,, 40 ,, ...	528	42·31	126	10·10	594	47
40 ,, 45 ,, ...	166	53·55	28	9·03	116	37

For all ages the number of illegitimate births forms 26·50 per of the first births, reckoning the illegitimates as first births ; the nu of children born within nine months of marriage equals 22·99 per c while the number of children born nine months and upwards from of marriage equals 50·51 per cent., or little more than one-half of total. These figures throw a strong side light on the morals of community. It unfortunately happens that a comparison canno made with previous years, and it cannot therefore be stated wh the moral condition is in any degree better or worse than formerly

It has already been stated that some of the mothers of illegitimate children are very young. This will be seen from the following table, showing the ages of the females who gave birth to illegitimate children during the four years 1893–6 :—

Ages of Mothers.	Number of Mothers.	Ages of Mothers.	Number of Mothers.	Ages of Mothers.	Number of Births.
13 years	6	27 years	338	41 years	29
14 ,, ...	34	28 ,, ...	311	42 ,, ...	47
15 ,, ...	107	29 ,, ...	237	43 ,, ...	29
16 ,, ...	270	30 ,, ...	253	44 ,, ...	7
17 ,, ...	555	31 ,, ...	146	45 ,, ...	6
18 ,, ...	796	32 ,, ...	163	46 ,, ...	7
19 ,, ...	903	33 ,, ...	146	47 ,, ...	1
20 ,, ...	932	34 ,, ...	159	48 ,, ...	2
21 ,, ...	887	35 ,, ...	150	50 ,, ...	4
22 ,, ...	768	36 ,, ...	103	55 ,, ...	1
23 ,, ...	689	37 ,, ...	107	Not stated	29
24 ,, ...	552	38 ,, ...	91		
25 ,, ...	446	39 ,, ...	77	Total	9,840
26 ,, ...	407	40 ,, ...	54		

The birthplaces of the mothers of illegitimate children were as follow :—New South Wales, 7,245 ; Victoria, 637 ; Queensland, 277 ; South Australia, 167 ; Western Australia, 5 ; Tasmania, 88 ; New Zealand, 151 : England, 691 ; Wales, 27 ; Scotland, 125 ; Ireland, 806 ; other British possessions, 17 ; Germany, 34 ; United States, 12 ; other foreign countries, 29 ; at sea, 9 ; not stated, 29.

Of 4,435 infants who died in the colony during the year 1896 before they had attained the age of 12 months, 3,717 were legitimate, and 718 illegitimate ; and of 5,925 children who died before they had reached the age of 5 years, 5,108 were legitimate, and 817 illegitimate. From this it would appear that while the death-rate of all children under 1 year of age was 121·49 per thousand, and of all children under 5 years of age, 31·34 per thousand ; the death-rate of legitimate children of less than 12 months was 109·13 per thousand, and of legitimate children under 5 years of age, 28·34 per thousand ; and the death-rate of illegitimates under 12 months of age was 293·66 per thousand, and under 5 years of age, 92·27 per thousand. These figures disclose the fact that the death-rate of illegitimates under 1 year is 169·09 per cent. higher than that of legitimates, and that the deatl illegitimates under 5 years is 225·58 per cent. hi than egitimates. In other words, the probability of a legiti child South Wales reaching the age of 5 years is about times than that of an illegitimate child.

TWINS AND TRIPLETS.

During the year 1896 there were two cases of triplets, comp 2 males and 4 females. Twins numbered 335 cases, comprising males and 334 females, in all 669 children, one infant having still-born. There were s. The number of children b triplets and twins forme cent. of the total births.

District.					Twins.		
	No. of cases.	M.	F.	Total.	No. of cases.	M.	F.
Sydney	...	...	...	...	17	17	17
Suburbs	..	...	...	...	94	87	100
Country	2	2	4	6	224	231	217
Total	2	2	4	6	335	335	334

The following table shows the number of twins and triplets b New South Wales during the last ten years, excluding those still-bo

Year.	Triplets.				Twins.		
	No. of cases.	M.	F.	Total living at Birth.	No. of cases.	M.	F.
1887	1	3	......	3	310	294	325
1888	1	1	2	3	363	371	355
1889	1	2	1	3	329	358	298
1890	1	3	......	3	398	405	391
1891	......	......	......	......	393	388	397
1892	6	8	10	18	328	332	323
1893	5	8	7	15	408	400	414
1894	3	4	4	8	365	362	367
1895	6	12	6	18	396	396	395
1896	2	2	4	6	335	335	334
Ten years...	26	43	34	77	3,625	3,641	3,599

There were also quartettes in 1888, 1893, and 1895.

As shown in the foregoing table, there were 3,625 cases of twins, cases of triplets, and 3 quartettes during the ten years 1887–96. e total number of confinements recorded during this period was 382,413. follows, therefore, that one mother in every 106 gave birth to twins; mother in every 14,708 was delivered of three children, and one in ry 127,471 of four children at a birth.

The ages of the mothers of all twins born during 1893–6 were as ow :—

Ages of Mothers.	Number of Confinements	Ages of Mothers.	Number of Confinements.
16 years	2	27 years	65
17 „	5	28 „	89
18 „	7	29 „	93
19 „	14	30 years and under 35	426
20 „	25	35 „ „ 40	348
21 „	32	40 „ „ 45	106
22 „	37	45 „	4
23 „	61	46 „	3
24 „	56	49 „	1
25 „	61		
26 „	69	Total	1,504

The ages of 67 unmarried mothers who gave birth to twins are luded in the above table.

The ages of the fathers, excluding the 67 cases in which the children re illegitimate, are shown in the following table :—

Ages of Fathers.	Cases of Twins.	Ages of Fathers.	Cases of Twins.
21 years	6	35 years and under 40	389
22 „	11	40 „ „ 45	202
23 „	20	45 „ „ 50	101
24 „	31	50 „ „ 55	55
25 „	28	55 „ „ 60	18
26 „	34	60 years	2
27 „	41	62 „	1
28 „	66	66 „	1
29 „	68	75 „	1
30 years and under 35	362		
		Total	1,437

Of the mothers of twins, 940 were born in New South Wales ; 130 in ctoria ; 82 in the other Australasian colonies ; 177 in England and ales ; 54 in Scotland ; 92 in Ireland ; and 29 in other countries. Of fathers, 696 were born in New South Wales; in Victoria, 96 ; the other Australasian colonies, 67 ; in England and Wales, 316 ; Scotland, 69 ; in Ireland, 105 ; in other countries, 88.

The ages of the fathers and mothers of the 16 cases of triplets t occurred during the four years, 1893–6, were as follow :—

Ages of Fathers.	Cases of Triplets.	Ages of Mothers.	Cases of Triplets.
28 years	1	22 years	1
29 ,,	1	26 ,,	1
30 ,,	1	27 ,,	1
31 ,,	1	30 ,,	1
32 ,,	2	31 ,,	1
33 ,,	1	32 ,,	2
34 ,,	2	33 ,,	2
36 ,,	1	35 ,,	3
39 ,,	2	36 ,,	1
41 ,,	1	39 ,,	1
43 ,,	1	40 ,,	2
45 ,,	1		
50 ,,	1		
Total	16	Total	16

Of the fathers, 10 were born in New South Wales, 3 in Englan in Scotland, 1 in Ireland, and one at sea ; while of the mothers, 12 w born in New South Wales, 2 in England, and 2 in Ireland.

In the case of the quartette which occurred in 1893, the ages of b parents were 21, and both were born in New South Wales ; while in case of the 1895 quartette the father, aged 38, was born in New S Wales, and the mother, aged 36, was born in Ireland.

There were, during the four years 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896, cases of twins at first birth. The period elapsing between the dat marriage and the birth of the children is shown in the following table

Period.	Number of Confinements	Period.	Number of Confinements	Period.	Numb Confin
1 month	6	11 months	14	21 months	2
2 months	2	12 ,,	11	22 ,,	3
3 ,,	9	13 ,,	5	23 ,,	4
4 ,,	8	14 ,,	4	2 years	1
5 ,,	15	15 ,,	3	3 ,,	5
6 ,,	10	16 ,,	3	4 ,,	2
7 ,,	19	17 ,,	1	7 ,,	1
8 ,,	18	18 ,,	2	11 ,,	1
9 ,,	21	19 ,,	3		
10 ,,	13	20 ,,	1	Total	2

Of the 2 cases of triplets which occurred at first birth durin four years 1893–6, 1 took place 9 months, and the other 16 mo after marriage. Neither of the 2 quartettes occurred at a first bir

DEATHS IN CHILD-BIRTH.

one year with another, the deaths resulting from various and casualties incident to child-birth average about 6·63 per births, or one death to every 151 births. As the average f children born by each mother is 5·12, it follows that out of 0 child-bearing women 3·39—averaging one woman in every ose their lives from the casualties of child-birth. During the s ended 1896 the deaths from various assigned causes were :—

Causes of Death.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	Total 4 years.
....	5	12	11	11	39
ge	19	21	26	27	93
Fever	67	110	111	81	369
Mania	3	4	1	5	13
Convulsions	22	28	23	27	100
rævia, Flooding	36	30	40	36	142
ia dolens	3	1	2	1	7
alties of child-birth	66	61	64	61	252
Total	221	267	278	249	1,015

be seen that about one-fourth of the total number of deaths ly attributed to child-birth. These would have been classified eir proper headings had fuller information been available. Of cases which occurred during the three years 1894–6, the were born alive in 450 cases, and still-born in 344 cases.

g the four years 1893–6, 916 of the 1,015 women who yielded were married, and 99 single; and as there were during this 43,188 legitimate and 9,849 illegitimate births—reckoning cases and triplets as single births—it follows that amongst married he fatal cases average 6·40, and amongst single women 10·05 per 1 births. The law does not require a record of the illegitimate of a deceased woman, so that it is impossible to say how many omen died in first confinement during the three years under

Deducting the total number of deaths of single women in th during the four years—99—from the total number of deaths onfinement, there would remain 220 deaths of married women onfinement during the period, averaging 8·06 per thousand such he total number of first confinements of married women in the f the four years having been 27,309.

ollowing table shows the deaths in child-birth during 1893–6 according to the previous issue of the deceased mothers, exclusive ildren still-born, no information with respect to the being sh the death registers :—

N vious Issue, er of Children.	Number of Deaths.	Previous Issue, Number of Children.	Number of Deaths.
mate, 0	99	Legitimate, 8	54
nate, 0	220	,, 9	27
,, 1	108	,, 10	19
,, 2	104	,, 11	25
,, 3	72	,, 12	9
,, 4	87	,, 13	1
,, 5	68	,, 14	1
,, 6	61	,, 15	1
,, 7	[illegible]	,, 17	1

The ages of all women who y up life in giving birth to childr during the four years 1893–6 a forth below. It will be seen th the proportion of fatal cases wa lest at the twenty-fifth year, aft which it rapidly rose until at ge period of 40–45 years it w practically the same as the r y amongst young mothers und 18 years of age. The of four years, however, is hard sufficient to afford ab results :—

Ages of M	umber thers.	Deaths in Childbirth.	Deaths to every thousand Births.
Under 18 years	1,774	19	10·71
18 years	2,260	18	7·96
19 ,,	3,598	31	8·62
20 ,,	4,634	20	4·32
21 ,,	6,138	32	5·21
22 ,,	7,306	43	5·89
23 ,,	8,226	43	5·23
24 ,,	8,525	41	4·81
25 ,,	8,567	33	3·85
26 ,,	8,968	44	4·91
27 ,,	8,554	44	5·14
28 ,,	8,816	59	6·69
29 ,,	7,948	42	5·28
30 ,, and under 35	34,851	237	6·80
35 ,, ,, 40	23,441	198	8·45
40 ,, ,, 45	8,471	95	11·21
45 ,, and upwards	920	16	17·39
Not stated	40	....	....
Total	153,037	1,015	6·63

DEATHS.

During the ten years ended 1896, deaths in New South Wales h averaged annually 13·97 per thousand males, and 11·78 p females, or 12·96 per thousand of the mean population o pared with the death-rates of other countries, especially those of the World, this rate is remarkably low; but, at the same time, it is er than might be anticipated from the peculiarly healthy climatic litions which pertain to New South Wales.

he number of deaths registered during 1896 in each of the seven nies of Australasia, and the death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants, were llow :—

Colony.	Number of deaths.	Death-rate.
New South Wales	15,839	12·30
Victoria	15,710	13·34
Queensland	5,645	12·10
South Australia	4,083	11·38
Western Australia	2,020	16·53
Tasmania	1,901	11·63
New Zealand	6,432	9·10
Australasia	51,630	12·06

will be seen that in 1896 the death-rate of New South Wales was er than the rates of Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, and Zealand. If, however, the mean decennial rates be taken for the od from 1887 to 1896, it will be found that New South Wales has wer rate than any of the colonies with the exception of New Zea- and South Australia. For that period the general rate for tralasia was 13·04 per thousand, ranging from 9·87 per thousand in Zealand to 15·99 in Western Australia. Four colonies are over mean rate, namely, Western Australia, with 15·99; Victoria, with 3; Tasmania, with 13·72; and Queensland, with 13·41; while e are lower, namely, New South Wales, with 12·96—the nearest oach to the general rate of Australasia; South Australia, with 6; and New Zealand, with 9·87 per thousand.

formation respecting the United Kingdom and foreign countries the corresponding period are not yet available; but the favourable litions of Australasia as compared with European countries will be ifest from an inspection of the following rates for the decennial d extending from 1881 to 1890:—

ited Kingdom	18·98	Austria	29·51
England and Wales	19·14	Hungary	32·41
Scotland	19·18	Holland	20·97
Ireland	17·94	Belgium	20·31
nce	22·01	Denmark	18·61
in*	31·04	Norway	16·94
itzerland	20·82	Sweden	17·05
ly	27·28		
many	25·10	Average	23·15
ssia	24·69		

* For the period 1878–1884.

In order that a just comparison may be made, the mean decennial rates of the Australasian colonies for the same period (1881–90) are given below :—

New South Wales	14·66	Tasmania	15·61
Victoria	15·56	New Zealand	10·37
Queensland	17·04		
South Australia	13·62	Average, Australasia	14·78
Western Australia	16·59		

There are many causes operating to increase the European rate, which have not yet affected the colonies. Chief amongst these are the scourges of small-pox and cholera. It is not surprising, therefore, that even the healthiest country of Europe should have a higher annual death-rate than any part of Australasia. Considering the favourable environments of the population of New South Wales, the matter for surprise is not that the difference is so great, but that it is not greater. Apart from climatic conditions, which are most favourable here, the social condition of the great body of the people is far superior to that of Europeans, and their occupations are more healthful; and were it not for the pitiable loss of infant life, the death-rate of this colony would not reach much more than half the European average.

The death-rate of males in New South Wales averaged 13·97 per thousand during the last ten years, or more than one-sixth higher than that of females. The number of deaths of each of the sexes, with the rate per thousand from 1887 to 1896, is given below :—

Year.	Number of Deaths.			Death-rate per 1,000 of mean population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1887	7,776	5,672	13,448	14·12	12·49	13·38
1888	8,453	5,955	14,408	14·94	12·67	13·91
1889	8,674	6,122	14,796	14·93	12·61	13·57
1890	8,282	5,936	14,218	13·82	11·81	12·90
1891	9,558	6,728	16,286	15·41	12·86	14·23
1892	8,544	5,866	14,410	13·38	10·81	12·20
1893	9,289	6,733	16,022	14·23	12·07	13·24
1894	8,714	6,456	15,170	13·08	11·30	12·25
1895	8,671	6,243	14,914	12·77	10·66	11·79
1896	9,256	6,583	15,839	13·41	11·02	12·30
Mean for 10 years				13·97	11·78	12·96

principal cause of the greater mortality amongst males is found nature of their occupations, with the accidents and exposure ant thereon. This is especially marked in the country districts colony, where deaths from accident are extremely numerous, lly among males. Besides this, the greater delicateness of male s operates to increase the death-rate as compared with that of s. During the ten years 1887–96 the natural increment to the tion by births was in the proportion of 105·31 males to 100 s; but, from the causes alluded to, the net increase of population ess of births over deaths is largely in favour of females. For the mentioned the excess of births over deaths averaged annually les 11,082, and for females 12,575, the net increase being there- the proportion of 1,000 males to 1,135 females.

excess of males in the community, with the consequent larger r of male deaths, makes the comparison appear more favourable ale lives than is actually the case. The following table has been ted on the assumption that the males and females in the com- y are equal in number, as they soon would be if it were not for cess of males yearly added to the population by immigration. It appear, however, from the table, that the extra proportion of born does not counterbalance the extra number of male deaths:—

Year.	Male deaths.	Female deaths.	Computed male deaths, if male and female population were equal.	Excess of computed male over female deaths.	Excess of male over female births.
1887	7,776	5,672	6,410	738	566
1888	8,453	5,955	7,021	1,066	707
1889	8,674	6,122	7,245	1,123	1,375
1890	8,282	5,936	6,943	1,007	841
1891	9,558	6,728	8,064	1,336	1,314
1892	8,544	5,866	7,261	1,395	1,023
1893	9,289	6,733	7,937	1,204	1,302
1894	8,714	6,456	7,477	1,021	1,022
1895	8,671	6,243	7,478	1,235	980
1896	9,256	6,583	8,014	1,431	876
Total for ten years				11,556	10,006

The season of the year in which deaths are most numerous i quarter ending March; but the number of deaths in the Dece quarter is nearly as great, and in some years has exceeded that o first quarter. The deaths in 1891, chiefly owing to a visitatio epidemic influenza, were much more numerous than in 1892, w compared with the population, they presented a lower rate than for year since 1861. In 1895, however, the death-rate fell to a still l figure, namely to 11·79 per thousand. Taking the ten years ended 1 the deaths during each quarter of the year were :—

Year.	Quarter ending—			
	31 March.	30 June.	30 September.	31 December.
1887	3,980	3,362	2,805	3,301
1888	3,624	3,595	3,387	3,802
1889	4,101	3,728	3,158	3,809
1890	3,652	3,448	3,516	3,602
1891	3,758	3,535	3,601	5,392
1892	3,982	3,476	3,222	3,730
1893	3,710	3,616	3,859	4,837
1894	3,864	3,579	4,037	3,690
1895	3,478	3,536	3,781	4,119
1896	4,894	3,642	3,619	3,684

For the purpose of comparison, the obvious divisions of metropo and country districts suggest themselves, and the annual death-rat thousand in each subdivision of the colony for the years 1887- given in the subjoined table :—

Year.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.
1887	17·52	11·48	13·38
1888	18·76	11·61	13·91
1889	18·03	11·83	13·87
1890	15·10	11·79	12·90
1891	16·48	13·09	14·24
1892	13·59	11·47	12·20
1893	15·57	12·01	13·24
1894	13·94	11·39	12·26
1895	13·18	11·11	11·79
1896	13·66	11·67	12·30
Mean.........	15·43	11·74	12·96

During the ten years the death-rate for the whole colony v between 11·79 and 14·24—a range of 2·45 per thousand. In metropolis, however, as will be seen below, the rate varied between l

‧76, the range being 5·58 per thousand. In the country districts was the lowest rate, and 13·09 the highest, 1·98 being the :—

Districts.	Per 1,000 of mean population.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
olis (Sydney and suburbs)	18·76	13·18	15·43
y districts	13·09	11·11	11·74
outh Wales	14·24	11·79	12·96

ing the deaths of persons over 5 years of age during the last ten the rates for the metropolitan district and the country are not nore favourable, but more equal than those for all persons :—

Districts.	Per 1,000 of mean population.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
olis (Sydney and suburbs)	11·38	8·86	9·86
y districts	9·61	8·27	8·58
outh Wales	10·00	8·51	9·01

ning to deaths under 5 years, which may be generally termed the infantile life, the chief factor of the excessive death-rate of the nd suburbs will be found :—

Districts.	Per 1,000 of mean population.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
polis (Sydney and suburbs)	61·74	37·30	49·04
y districts	33·21	26·23	29·59
outh Wales	41·68	29·80	35·82

lesson conveyed by the above table is a very striking one. The ium death-rate of infants in the metropolis exceeded the maximum the country by 4·09 per thousand, and the mean rate of the country nly three-fifths of the metropolitan. When the circumstances of the country districts are considered, the distance sick persons are ed from the comforts, and even the necessaries which sickness ds, the full meaning of the low rate, both for adults and for en, will best be understood. No more potent argument could be ced as to the natural salubrity of the colony than the statement death-rates as recorded outside the walls of the metropolis.

All sa on, however, in regard to the low death-rate is conf to the cou listricts. So far as Sydney and its suburbs are concer there is e for congratulation; on the contrary, the rate at w children ler years drop into the grave forms a pathetic commen on the c on of the colony. Taking the whole period embr in the t , the death-rate of children under 5 years was 52 thousand in the metropolis. The following quinquennial table has b compiled in order to illustrate the gradual change which has taken p since 1871:—

Quinquennial period.	Metropolis.	Country Districts.	New South Wales.
		es.	
1871-75		12·77	14·99
1876-80		13·96	16·10
1881-85	20·77	13·46	15·70
1886-90	17·94	11·82	13·80
1891-95	14·53	11·79	12·72
1896	13·66	11·67	12·30
	Over 5 years.		
1871-75	12·72	9·25	10·21
1876-80	12·82	9·86	10·73
1881-85	12·56	9·50	11·40
1886-90	10·93	8·49	9·27
1891-95	9·50	8·63	8·92
1896	9·58	8·77	9·03
	Under 5 years.		
1871-75	66·28	30·55	39·78
1876-80	77·45	35·80	46·36
1881-85	73·35	35·99	46·63
1886-90	58·12	31·68	40·04
1891-95	45·32	29·78	34·58
1896	37·85	28·26	31·24

A remarkable improvement may be noticed in the death-rate of metropolis, both for ages over and under 5 years. In the country rate showed an increase during the second quinquennial per particularly amongst infant lives. The third period is marked b slight recovery, but this is quite eclipsed by the striking decline in death-rate of 1886-90. In the last quinquennial period, for 1891- the general rate for the country districts showed a further d decline; but this was due to the proportionately smaller numb deaths amongst children under 5 years, the death-rate of persons that age being slightly higher than in the previous quinqu The following table shows the mortality in the metropolitan and c districts during ten years; the figures for previous years will be in earlier editions of this book. In the first part of the found the actual number of deaths, and in the second the

of children under 5 years and of persons over that age, as
ed with the population :—

r.	Children under 5 years.			Persons over 5 years.		
	Metropolis.	Country.	N.S.W.	Metropolis.	Country.	N.S.W.
			Number of Deaths.			
7	2,598	3,022	5,620	2,948	4,880	7,828
8	3,035	3,172	6,207	3,223	4,978	8,201
9	3,239	3,284	6,523	3,099	5,174	8,273
0	2,498	3,278	5,776	3,093	5,349	8,442
1	2,821	3,689	6,510	3,599	6,177	9,776
2	2,446	3,381	5,827	3,066	5,517	8,583
3	3,157	3,915	7,072	3,327	5,623	8,950
4	2,448	3,465	5,913	3,440	5,817	9,257
5	2,238	3,310	5,548	3,247	6,119	9,366
6	2,234	3,691	5,925	3,355	6,559	9,914
			Per 1,000 of Population.			
7	54·94	30·82	38·66	10·95	8·27	9·11
8	60·19	31·33	40·92	11·38	8·28	9·28
9	61·74	31·56	41·68	10·36	8·47	9·09
0	45·85	30·83	35·92	9·79	8·55	8·97
1	50·89	33·21	39·10	10·77	9·61	10·00
2	41·20	29·74	33·69	8·86	8·33	8·51
3	52·58	33·07	39·64	9·34	8·32	8·67
4	40·74	28·31	32·40	9·50	8·40	8·77
5	37·30	26·23	29·80	9·12	8·47	8·68
6	37·85	28·26	31·24	9·58	8·77	9·03
n......	49·04	29·59	35·82	9·86	8·58	9·01

following table gives the number of children under 1 year
in the metropolis and country, and the proportion per thousand
. This latter approximately represents the proportion of children
ied within a year after birth :—

r.	Metropolis.		Country Districts.		New South Wales.	
	Deaths under 1.	Per 1,000 births.	Deaths under 1.	Per 1,000 births.	Deaths under 1.	Per 1,000 births.
87	1,890	140·8	2,055	86·3	3,945	105·9
88	2,084	152·0	2,187	88·1	4,271	110·9
89	2,301	172·4	2,371	99·0	4,672	125·3
90	1,823	155·4	2,249	88·4	4,072	104·5
91	2,075	148·1	2,616	102·8	4,691	118·9
92	1,832	130·2	2,413	92·9	4,245	106·0
93	2,048	146·7	2,592	98·2	4,640	115·0
94	1,765	132·0	2,483	97·0	4,248	109·1
95	1,669	130·8	2,437	93·7	4,106	105·9
96	1,710	139·0	2,725	112·6	4,435	121·5
n......	....	143·0	....	95·8	....	112·2

A more precise classification of the ages of the 4,435 children u
year, who died in 1896, is shown in the following table :—

Ages.	Metropolis.	Country.	New South Wales.
Under 1 month	452	798	1,250
1 month	167	253	420
2 months	173	227	400
3 "	148	251	399
4 "	131	218	349
5 "	106	200	306
6 "	134	181	315
7 "	84	157	241
8 "	99	142	241
9 "	79	109	188
10 "	81	103	184
11 "	56	86	142
Total	1,710	2,725	4,435

The experience of the United Kingdom shows that infant mo
is always higher in large towns than in the country districts.
experience of this colony is somewhat similar. But though th
ditions of life in England are more favourable in the country di
than in the towns, the same is not necessarily the case here. In sp
scattered communities, such as the country districts of New South
mainly comprise, it is frequently impossible to obtain for child
tender years articles which in towns are considered, and right
almost necessaries of life. Were it not, therefore, for the cont
which seem incidental to towns, the death-rate of children
naturally be expected to be, so far as this colony is concerned,
in the country than in the city. That such is not the case is e
from the foregoing table. But compared with the rates of
mortality in the other colonies, and in England and France, th
New South Wales seem very favourable, as will be seen on ref
to the following table, which gives the mean annual rates calculat
a period of ten years ended 1896 :—

Country.	Deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births.	Country.	Deat childr 1 year bir
New South Wales	112·2	Tasmania	1
Sydney and suburbs	143·0	New Zealand	1
Country districts	95·8	England and Wales	*1
Victoria	119·0	London	*1
Queensland	108·8	Scotland	*1
South Australia	99·3	France	*1
Western Australia	132·8		

* 10 years ended 1895.

The general salubrity of the colony may be taken as well estab
and if the deaths in Sydney and suburbs, especially amongst

, were not relatively more numerous than those in the rest of
ny, New South Wales would have no need to fear comparison
y country.

omparatively high death-rates of Sydney certainly do not arise
tural causes. Seated on the hilly shores of Port Jackson, its
ı is all that could be desired, and the configuration of the ground
h it stands is especially adapted to the requirements of a perfect
system. What Nature with lavish hand had bestowed, was,
, until recently, in danger of being destroyed or polluted; for
through the causes of death the conclusion is inevitable that no
rt of the mortality of Sydney and its suburbs arose, primarily
ectly, from diseases which sanitary precautions might have

the exception of Hobart and Wellington, there is not much
e in the mean annual death-rates of the capitals of the Austra-
olonies. The rates for a single year, however, do not present
iformity, as will be seen by the following figures for 1896 :—
20·65; Hobart, 16·17; Melbourne, 15·81; Adelaide, 14·66;
e, 14·17; Sydney, 13·66; and Wellington, 10·97. Of course
urbs of the various cities are included in these calculations.
ed with cities in other parts of the world, the result is generally
ble to Australasia. The following table shows the mean death-
the chief Australasian, European, and American cities for a
f years :—

Australasia.

	Annual Death-rate.		Annual Death-rate.		Annual Death-rate.
	21·45	Brisbane	17·17	Sydney	15·43
	20·72	Adelaide	15·47	Wellington	14·20
ie	18·88				
		United Kingdom.			
	27·10	Plymouth	22·30	Birmingham	19·80
	26·70	Newcastle	21·80	Portsmouth	19·70
	26·10	Sheffield	21·60	Bristol	19·60
er	25·50	London	21·10	Brighton	19·00
	25·30	Edinburgh	20·20		
		Continental Europe.			
sburg	51·40	Paris	28·60	Amsterdam	23·70
	37·40	Berlin	27·60	Rotterdam	23·30
th	35·20	Rome	26·80	Venice	22·70
	32·80	Cologne	26·20	The Hague	22·40
	32·50	Leipsic	26·10	Copenhagen	22·10
	32·30	Stockholm	24·70	Geneva	21·20
	30·60	Hamburg	24·50	Christiania	18·80
	29·00	Brussels	23·90		
		America.			
	37·20	New Orleans	22·70	Philadelphia	20·30
k	26·20	Toronto	21·50	St. Louis	19·30
	25·60	Baltimore	21·10	San Francisco	18·10
	23·50				

This list is fairly representative, and largely as the rate for S is swollen by the deaths of children of tender years, whose lives ar needlessly sacrificed, the comparison is satisfactory.

The following table shows the numbers of deaths at all ages d the year 1896 :—

Age Groups.	Males.	Females.	Total
Under 3 months	1,145	925	2,070
3 months and under 6 ...	566	488	1,054
6 ,, ,, 12 ..	713	598	1,311
1 year	468	421	889
2 years	141	159	300
3 ,, ...	77	89	166
4 ,, ...	65	70	135
5 years and under 10......	225	194	419
10 ,, ,, 15.....	160	114	274
15 ,, ,, 20......	247	207	454
20 years	52	53	105
21 years and under 25......	216	214	430
25 ,, ,, 30......	309	290	599
30 ,, ,, 35......	377	241	618
35 ,, ,, 40.....	410	298	708
40 ,, ,, 45......	415	226	641
45 ,, ,, 50......	427	215	642
50 ,, ,, 55......	460	236	696
55 ,, ,, 60......	469	255	724
60 ,, ,, 65......	562	276	838
65 ,, ,, 70......	504	234	739
70 ,, ,, 75......	409	250	659
75 ,, ,, 80......	393	248	641
80 ,, ,, 85......	262	153	415
85 ,, ,, 90......	127	91	218
90 ,, ,, 95......	34	27	61
95 ,, ,, 100......	14	9	23
100 years and upwards......	3	2	5
Not stated (adults)	5	......	5
Total............	9,256	6,583	15,839

The number of persons of the age of 70 years and upwards who d during the year was 2,022, and of these 1,242 were males and 780 fem There were 1,300 between the ages of 70 and 80 years; 633 betw 80 and 90 years; 84 between 90 and 100 years; and 5 centenari One male, aged 100, died at Blayney; another, aged 100, at Hillgr and one, aged 104, at Picton. One female, aged 102, died at Narr and another, aged 102, at Young. The birthplace of the first mentioned was England, while the other two males, and both fem were born in Ireland.

next table gives the average age at death of all persons dying colony during the last ten years, together with the average age se who were over 5 years of age :—

Year.	Males.		Females.	
	All Ages.	Over 5 years.	All Ages.	Over 5 years.
1887	29·33	46·95	24·31	44·53
1888	29·44	48·11	23·42	44·01
1889	29·32	48·33	23·07	44·83
1890	30·08	47·62	25·48	45·52
1891	31·50	49·58	27·08	45·90
1892	30·26	48·03	24·69	43·89
1893	28·62	49·01	23·98	45·10
1894	32·76	51·03	28·56	48·76
1895	33·49	50·55	28·02	46·91
1896	33·34	50·30	27·88	47·19
Mean of 10 years...	30·81	48·95	25·65	45·66

birthplaces of the 61,945 persons who died in New South Wales the four years 1893–6, are shown in the following table :—

irthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.
ian Colonies—				European Countries and			
South Wales....	19,100	17,068	36,168	Dependencies—			
oria	752	546	1,298	German Empire	569	201	770
nsland	182	163	345	France..............	129	25	154
h Australia	305	248	553	Austria-Hungary	35	4	39
ern Australia ..	8	6	14	Russia	55	9	64
ania	158	111	269	Italy................	68	5	73
Zealand	118	101	219	Sweden and Norway..	201	6	207
				Other Countries	239	30	269
otal	20,623	18,243	38,866				
				Total	1,296	280	1,576
ingdom							
nd	6,909	3,443	10,352	Other Foreign Countries			
s	248	89	337	China	530	1	531
and	1,812	848	2,660	Other Asiatic Coun-			
d	3,605	2,884	6,489	tries	12	..	12
				African Countries....	5	..	5
otal	12,574	7,264	19,838	United States........	181	32	213
				South American Coun-			
tish Possessions				tries	11	3	14
....	86	40	126	Polynesia...........	40	6	46
n Possessions..	28	17	45				
American Pos-				Total	779	42	821
sions	75	11	86				
Indies	38	10	48	Born at Sea	39	42	81
Possessions....	40	14	54	Birthplace not stated ..	352	52	404
tal	267	92	359	Total	35,930	26,015	61,945

Of thes[illegible]45 persons, 38,866 were natives of Australasia, and it will be seen [illegible]t in 404 cases the birthplace of the deceased was not stated. Of [illegible] remaining 22,675 persons, information was supplied respecting the [illegible]ength of residence in Australasia of 21,409, and from the particulars given, the following table has been compiled:—

Length of Residence in Australasian Colonies.	Males.			Females.			Total Males and Females.
	Under 21 years	Adults.	Total.	Under 21 years	Adults.	Total.	
Under 1 year	32	[illegible]	221	19	39	58	279
1 year and under 5......	35	[illegible]	471	24	161	185	656
5 years and under 10	36	[illegible]	899	54	447	501	1,400
10 " " 15......	44	1,294	[illegible],338	44	594	638	1,976
15 " " 20......	18	[illegible]	[illegible],029	11	437	448	1,477
20 years and upwards......	...	9,[illegible]	[illegible],948	...	5,673	5,673	15,621
Total	165	13,741	13,906	152	7,351	7,503	21,409

Amongst the persons whose term of residence is set down as 20 years and upwards, are included a native of England who had resided in the Australasian colonies for 90 years; three natives of England who had been living in the colonies for 80 years; a native of Wales who had been living in the colonies for 85 years; a native of Scotland who had arrived 84 years ago; and six natives of Ireland of whom one had lived in the colonies for 88 years, one for 84 years, and two each for 83 and 80 years respectively. Of the 2,397 persons born in foreign countries who died in New South Wales during the four years 1893–6, sixteen had lived in the colonies for more than sixty years.

The average number of children born to each married couple has been given on a previous page of this chapter. A further tabulation has been made with the object of showing the average number of children who survive their parents in families of various sizes. It will be seen from the subjoined table that in every group the number of children surviving their fathers appears larger than the n
viving their mothers. This is due to the more frequent re-m

the children resulting from all marriages being included in le :—

Number of Children in Family.	Number of Children out of 100 Families who will survive—	
	their Father.	their Mother.
1	87	82
2	166	157
3	241	231
4	320	304
5	388	381
6	468	449
7	542	525
8	615	593
9	681	659
10	746	704
11	824	795
12	873	826
13	941	832
14	962	885
15	1,036	989
16 and more	1,055	907

average number of children who survive one of their parents

Causes of Death.

system of classifying causes of death proposed by the late Dr. m Farr, F.R.S., in conjunction with Dr. Marc d'Espine, which a vogue in the United Kingdom and the colonies for over a r of a century, has within the last few years been abandoned in of one arranged by Dr. William Ogle, Dr. Farr's successor at eneral Register Office, London, upon the basis of a mode of cation determined upon by a committee appointed by the Royal e of Physicians, London; and whilst the latter system includes important deviations from the former, the changes on the whole the direction of amplification, so that the admirable system Farr still forms the groundwork of the new classification.

The number of deaths in New South Wales from each cause during the year 1896 is here given, together with the proportion which each class bears to the total:—

Class.	Causes of Death.	Under 5 Years.		5 Years and Over.		Total.	Proportion per cent.
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		
I.	Specific febrile or zymotic diseases	601	611	594	480	2,286	14·43
II.	Parasitic diseases	8	9	27	29	73	0·46
III.	Dietetic diseases	38	35	109	30	212	1·34
IV.	Constitutional diseases	156	158	1,088	841	2,243	14·16
V.	Developmental diseases	342	265	537	348	1,492	9·42
VI.	Local diseases	1,447	1,218	2,776	1,882	7,323	46·23
VII.	Violence	141	107	922	197	1,367	8·63
VIII.	Ill-defined and not specified causes	442	347	28	26	843	5·32
	All causes	3,175	2,750	6,081	3,833	15,839	100·00

Class I.—Specific Febrile or Zymotic Diseases.

Order 1. *Miasmatic Diseases.*—Chicken-pox, 3; measles, 4; scarlet fever, 48; influenza, 202; whooping-cough, 100; diphtheria, 168; cerebro-spinal fever, 3; simple continued fever, 5; typhoid, enteric fever, 509.

Order 2. *Diarrhœal Diseases.*—Cholera, cholera infantum, 99; diarrhœa, 829; dysentery, 92.

Order 3. *Malarial Diseases.*—Remittent fever, 3; intermittent fever, ague, 6; beri beri, 3.

Order 4. *Zoogenous Diseases.*—Splenic fever, 1.

Order 5. *Venereal Diseases.*—Syphilis (including congenital), 54; stricture of urethra, 5.

Order 6. *Septic Diseases.*—Phagedæna, 1; erysipelas, 27; pyæmia, septicæmia, 43; puerperal fever, 81.

Class II.—Parasitic Diseases.

Thrush, 16; hydatid disease, 56; worms, 1.

Class III.—Dietetic Diseases.

Starvation, privation, 23; want of breast milk, 68; scurvy, 4; intemperance—(*a*) chronic alcoholism, 86; (*b*) delirium tremens, 29; (*c*) opium smoking, 1; surfeit (over-eating), 1.

Class IV.—Constitutional Diseases.

Rheumatic fever, rheumatism of heart, 62; rheumatism, 35; gout, 17; rickets, 18; cancer, 621; tabes mesenterica, 176; tubercular meningitis (acute hydrocephalus), 108; phthisis, 1,027; other forms of tuberculosis, scrofula, 69; purpura, hæmorrhagic diathesis, 8; anæmia, chlorosis, leucocythæmia, 57; diabetes mellitus, 39; leprosy, 6.

Class V.—Developmental Diseases.

Premature birth, 453; atelectasis, 50; cyanosis, 48; spina bifida, 19; imperforate anus, 7; cleft palate, harelip, 8; other congenital defects, 25; old age, 882.

Class VI.—Local Diseases.

Order 1. *Diseases of the Nervous System.*—Inflammation of the brain or its membranes, 189; apoplexy, 303; softening of the brain, 35; hemiplegia, brain

, 161 ; paralysis agitans, 22 ; insanity, general paralysis of the insane, 83 ;
; epilepsy, 97 ; convulsions, 584 ; laryngismus stridulus, 7 ; idiopathic
13 ; paraplegia, disease of the spinal cord, 76 ; congestion of brain, 40 ;
nd brain diseases (undefined), 41.

2. *Diseases of the Organs of Special Sense.*—Otitis, otorrhœa, disease
ar, 7 ; epistaxis, disease of the nose, 3 ; ophthalmia, disease of the

3. *Diseases of the Circulatory System.*—Endocarditis, valvular disease,
icarditis, 67 ; hypertrophy of heart, 5; angina pectoris, 26 ; syncope, 140 ;
, 76 ; senile gangrene, 35 ; embolism, thrombosis, 28 ; phlebitis, 6 ;
veins, 2 ; heart disease (undefined), 365.

4. *Diseases of the Respiratory System.*—Laryngitis, 36 ; croup, 79 ;
eases of larynx and trachea, 21 ; asthma, emphysema, 105 ; bronchitis,
eumonia, 828 ; congestion of the lungs, 84 ; pleurisy, 139 ; others, and
ease (undefined), 32.

5. *Diseases of the Digestive System.*—Stomatitis, 9 ; dentition, 49 ;
at, quinsy, 10 ; dyspepsia, 38 ; hæmatemesis, 5 ; melæna, 6 ; diseases of
ach, 86 ; enteritis, 935 ; ulceration of intestine, 83 ; ileus, obstruction
tine, 89 ; stricture or strangulation of intestine, 9 ; intussusception of
, 31 ; hernia, 40 ; fistula, 5 ; peritonitis, 137 ; ascites, 17 ; gallstones, 19 ;
of liver, 96 ; hepatitis, 33 ; jaundice, 54 ; congestion of liver, 20 ; other
of liver, 55 ; other diseases of digestive system, 12.

6. *Diseases of the Lymphatic System and Ductless Glands.*—Diseases of
c system, 6 ; diseases of spleen, 4 ; bronchocele, 1 ; Addison's disease, 8.

7. *Diseases of the Urinary System.*—Acute Nephritis, 82 ; Bright's disease,
emia, 59 ; suppression of urine, 8 ; calculus, 10 ; haematuria, 8 ; diseases
r and of prostate, 95 ; others, and kidney disease (undefined), 19.

8. *Diseases of the Organs of Generation.*—Ovarian disease, 19 ; diseases
s and vagina, 14 ; disorders of menstruation, 4 ; pelvic abscess, 3 ;
abscess, 1 ; diseases of testes, penis, scrotum, 3.

9. *Diseases of Parturition.*—Abortion, 11 ; miscarriage, 27 ; puerperal
; puerperal convulsions, 27 ; placenta prævia, flooding, 36 ; phlegmasia
; other casualties of childbirth, 61.

10. *Diseases of the Organs of Locomotion.*—Caries, necrosis, 16 ; arthritis,
eriostitis, 7 ; joint disease, 8 ; curvature of spine, 2.

11. *Diseases of the Integumentary System.*—Carbuncle, 6 ; phlegmon,
, 8; lupus, 4 ; ulcer, bed sores, 4 ; eczema, 14; pemphigus, 5; dermatitis,

Class VII.—Violence.

1. *Accident or Negligence.*—Fractures and contusions, 399 ; gunshot
17 ; cuts (tetanus), 25 ; burns, 114 ; scalds, 25 ; sunstroke, 253 ; lightning, 5 ;
0 ; bite of snake or insect, 5 ; drowning, 166 ; suffocation, 51 ; injury
, 10 ; umbilical hæmorrhage, 12 ; blood-poisoning, 10 ; collapse under
m, 4 ; boiler explosion, 2 ; explosion of chemicals, 1 ; dynamite explosion,
losion of coal-gas, 1 ; bitten by shark, 1 ; injury by bullock, 1 ; drinking
hilst heated, 1 ; eating unripe fruit, 1.

2. *Homicide.*—Murder, 33 ; manslaughter, 9 ; justifiable homicide, 1.

3. *Suicide.*—Gunshot wounds, 40 ; cut, stab, 20 ; poison, 36 ; drowning,
ging, 29 ; jumping from a height, 3 ; dynamite, 1 ; going in front of
ngine, 3.

4. *Execution.*—Judicial Hanging, 1.

5. *Violent Deaths not classed.*—Found drowned, 6.

Class VIII.—Ill-defined and not Specified Causes.

, 42 ; atrophy, debility, inanition, 784 ; mortification, 1 ; tumour, 2 ;
; other ill-defined and not specified causes, 13.

Males, 9,256 ; Females, 6,583. Total, 15,839.

From regoing it will be seen that, leaving accidental de out of ration, the number of deaths from phthisis in colony 1896 was greater than that from any other dis The mo from this cause was, however, lower than the ave rate of the preceding ten years, the expected number of deaths be 1,185, as against an actual experience of 1,027. The fatal cas cancer were, on the contrary, 621, as against an expectation of based on the experience of the preceding decade, but the rate in N South Wales during the period 1887–96 was only 0·412 per thous of populati as compared with 0·672 in England and Wales dur the period 6–95.

The follo g are the principal causes of death, arranged in o of fatality :—

Accidents		ysentery	
Phthisis		leus, obstruction of intestine	
Enteritis		iseases of stomach	
Old age		ongestion of the lungs	
Diarrhœa		lceration of intestine	
Pneumonia		nsanity, general paralysis of the insane	
Atrophy, debility, inanition (infants)	78	roup	
Cancer	62	neurism	
Heart disease (exclusive of endocarditis, pericarditis, and aneurism)	[illegible]	araplegia, diseases of spinal cord	
		uberculosis, scrofula	
		Want of breast milk	
Convulsions		heumatic fever and rheumatism of heart	
Bronchitis			
Typhoid, enteric fever	[illegible]	Anæmia, chlorosis, leucocythæmia	
Premature birth	453	Hydatids	
Endocarditis and pericarditis	351	Syphilis (including congenital)	
Apoplexy	303	Dentition	
Bright's disease	293	Scarlet fever	
Diseases of the urinary system (exclusive of Bright's disease)	281	Pyæmia, septicæmia	
		Dropsy	
Liver diseases	258	Congestion of brain	
Childbirth and puerperal fever	249	Hernia	
Influenza	202	Diabetes mellitus	
Inflammation of the brain and its membranes	189	Dyspepsia	
		Laryngitis	
Suicide	182	Rheumatism	
Tabes mesenterica	176	Softening of the brain	
Diphtheria	168	Murder	
Hemiplegia, brain paralysis	161	Lung disease (undefined)	
Malformations (atelectasis, cyanosis, spina bifida, &c.)	157	Intussusception of intestine	
		Erysipelas	
Pleurisy	139	Privation, starvation	
Peritonitis	137	Paralysis agitans	
Intemperance	117	Gall-stones	
Tubercular meningitis (acute hydrocephalus)	108	Ovarian disease	
		Rickets	
Asthma, emphysema	105	Gout	
Whooping-cough	100	Ascites	
Cholera, cholera infantum	99	Thrush	
Epilepsy	97	Caries, necrosis	

low will be found a comparison of the deaths due to each class of e during the eight years ended 1896 :—

of Death.	1889.			1890.			1891.			1892.		
	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.
febrile, or lic diseases.	2,497	16·88	2·34	2,022	14·22	1·84	2,917	17·91	2·55	2,022	14·03	1·71
c diseases..	68	0·46	0·06	71	0·50	0·06	55	0·34	0·05	66	0·46	0·06
diseases ..	289	1·95	0·27	235	1·65	0·21	212	1·30	0·19	204	1·42	0·17
itutional es	2,018	13·64	1·89	1,988	13·98	1·80	2,141	13·15	1·87	2,064	14·32	1·75
pmental es	1,277	8·63	1·20	1,322	9·30	1·20	1,489	9·14	1·30	1,347	9·35	1·14
seases	6,615	44·71	6·20	6,587	46·33	5·98	7,301	44·83	6·38	6,527	45·29	5·52
e	1,110	7·50	1·04	1,163	8·18	1·06	1,165	7·15	1·02	1,153	8·00	0·98
ed and not led causes..	922	6·23	0·86	830	5·84	0·75	1,006	6·18	0·88	1,027	7·13	0·87
otal	14,796	100·00	13·86	14,218	100·00	12·90	16,286	100·00	14·24	14,410	100·00	12·20

of Death.	1893.			1894.			1895.			1896.		
	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Per 1,000 living.
febrile, or tic diseases.	2,891	18·05	2·39	2,622	17·28	2·12	2,228	14·94	1·76	2,286	14·43	1·78
ic diseases..	87	0·54	0·07	74	0·49	0·06	69	0·46	0·06	73	0·46	0·06
diseases ..	132	0·82	0·11	166	1·10	0·13	199	1·34	0·16	212	1·34	0·16
itutional ses	2,143	13·38	1·77	2,135	14·08	1·73	2,180	14·62	1·72	2,243	14·16	1·74
opmental ses	1,449	9·04	1·20	1,419	9·35	1·15	1,480	9·92	1·17	1,492	9·42	1·16
iseases	7,203	44·96	5·95	6,841	45·10	5·53	6,896	46·24	5·45	7,323	46·24	5·69
e	1,133	7·07	0·94	1,094	7·20	0·88	1,128	7·56	0·89	1,367	8·63	1·06
ied and not fied causes..	984	6·14	0·81	819	5·40	0·66	734	4·92	0·58	843	5·32	0·65
otal	16,022	100·00	13·24	15,170	100·00	12·26	14,914	100·00	11·79	15,839	100·00	12·30

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

e diseases which deserve special mention, although they are not ly the three which claim most victims in the course of the year, ancer, phthisis, and heart disease. During the year 1896 there 621 fatal cases of cancer, as compared with 556 in the preceding and 516 in 1894.

For a [illegible]er of years deaths from cancer have been more nun among [illegible] than among females; thus in 1894, 308 male an female [illegible]; in 1895, 311 male and 245 female deaths; and in 327 ma[illegible] 294 female deaths. The ages of the 621 persons died in [illegible]96 ranged from less than 10 to over 90 years. Of the number, 1[illegible]8 were born in Australasia; while of the remainder had been resident in the colonies for 20 years or more; 39, betwe and 20 years; 37, between 10 and 15 years; 17, between 5 a years; 3, for 4 years; 2 for 3 years; 1, for 2 years; 1, for 1 and 5 for less than 1 year.

It would seem that cases of cancer are increasing in New Wales much faster than might be expected from the actual increa population. All fatal case[illegible]n recorded since 1856, and d the interval the proportion [illegible]nd of the population has practi trebled. For the five years, [illegible]60, the proportion was 0·14 thousand, while in 1892–96 i[illegible] 0·44 per thousand. Possibl more skilful diagnosis of late [illegible] especially of internal cancer, account for part of the increa[illegible]ut when every allowance has made on this score, it will be fou[illegible]d that the spread of cancer dread reality, demanding very serious attention. The following shows the deaths since 1856, with the proportion per thousand of p lation :—

Year.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Year.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Year.	Deaths.	Per
1856	32	0·14	1870	113	0·23	1884	233	0·
1857	38	0·13	1871	127	0·25	1885	267	0·
1858	37	0·11	1872	149	0·28	1886	333	0·
1859	48	0·14	1873	159	0·29	1887	354	0·
1860	60	0·18	1874	156	0·28	1888	404	0·
1861	68	0·19	1875	181	0·31	1889	393	0·
1862	73	0·20	1876	166	0·27	1890	392	0·
1863	76	0·20	1877	167	0·27	1891	516	0·
1864	83	0·22	1878	191	0·29	1892	510	0·
1865	88	0·22	1879	171	0·25	1893	489	0·
1866	105	0·25	1880	239	0·33	1894	516	0·
1867	112	0·26	1881	216	0·28	1895	556	0·
1868	118	0·26	1882	215	0·27	1896	621	0·
1869	119	0·25	1883	215	0·26			

DEATHS FROM PHTHISIS.

deaths from phthisis which occurred during 1896 included
ınd 414 females, whose ages are shown in the following

	Deaths.	Age Groups.	Deaths.	Age Groups.	Deaths.
......	4	14 years.............	6	30 years and under 35	147
......	4	15 ,, ...	4	35 ,, ,, 40	146
......	1	16 ,, ...	13	40 ,, ,, 45	99
......	2	17 ,, ...	8	45 ,, ,, 50	76
......	1	18 ,, ...	15	50 ,, ,, 55	67
......	1	19 ,, ...	19	55 ,, ,, 60	50
......	3	20 ,, ...	27	60 ,, ,, 65	51
......	4	21 ,, ...	24	65 ,, ,, 70	20
......	1	22 ,, ...	23	70 ,, ,, 75	12
......	1	23 ,, ...	22	78 ,, ...	2
......	1	24 ,, ...	26		
......	5	25 years and under 30	142	Total	1,027

ıralian climate is certainly favourable to persons suffering
nary diseases, and a considerable number of persons suffer-
ıthisis visit Australia in search of relief. Many of these
ıst stages of the disease, and succumb after a short residence
ny. It may be said that during those years for which
is available, about 6½ per cent. of the fatal cases of con-
ıre those of persons whose residence in Australia had not
e years. The figures for the year 1896 show that out of the
ıs who died from phthisis, 539 were natives of Australasia;
ıre persons who had resided in the colonies for 20 years
s; 60, for 15 years and under 20; 111, for 10 years and
ınd 71, for 5 years and under 10; while 9 persons died of
ing the fifth year of their sojourn in the colonies; 4 during
ear; 6 during the third year; 10 during the second year;
ng the first year.

DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE.

om heart disease numbered 1,034 during the year 1896,
ıales and 377 females. Their ages are shown below:—

	Deaths.	Age Groups.	Deaths.	Age Groups.	Deaths.
....	24	16 years.............	3	50 years and under 55	96
....	1	17 ,, ...	10	55 ,, ,, 60	120
....	1	18 ,, ...	6	60 ,, ,, 65	142
....	1	19 ,, ...	1	65 ,, ,, 70	115
....	1	20 ,, ...	4	70 ,, ,, 75	78
....	1	21 ,, ...	3	75 ,, ,, 80	69
....	2	22 ,, ...	5	80 ,, ,, 85	30
....	1	23 ,, ...	5	85 ,, ,, 90	9
....	3	24 ,, ...	3	90 ,, ...	7
....	7	25 years and under 30	33	96 ,, ...	1
....	3	30 ,, ,, 35	36		
....	2	35 ,, ,, 40	57	Total	1,034
....	7	40 ,, ,, 45	60		
....	7	45 ,, ,, 50	80		

The number of new arrivals among the 1,034 persons enumerated i the preceding table was small. Seven persons died during the first yea of residence in Australasia; 2 during the second year; 4 during th third year; 6 during the fourth year; and 3 during the fifth year; 22 persons had been residing in the colonies from 5 to 10 years; 56 from 10 to 15 years; 61 from 15 to 20 years; and 559 persons 20 years and upwards. Of 11 persons the length of residence was not known, and 303 were natives of Australasia.

DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM.

A good deal is heard from time to time of the unhappy effects which our increasing civilisation has upon the health of the community, and of the large increase of diseases of the nerves and brain. The statistics of deaths show quite the contrary. Apoplexy, epilepsy, and other diseases of the nervous system do not now show so many fatal cases as formerly in proportion to the population. This will readily be seen from the following table, which covers the whole period during which registration has been in force :—

Year.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of population.	Year.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of population.	Year.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of population.
1856	489	2·08	1870	947	1·93	1884	1,803	2·04
1857	792	2·67	1871	984	1·94	1885	1,940	2·09
1858	930	2·87	1872	1,145	2·17	1886	1,800	1·86
1859	868	2·56	1873	1,180	2·17	1887	1,675	1·67
1860	884	2·58	1874	1,265	2·24	1888	1,692	1·63
1861	736	2·08	1875	1,307	2·24	1889	1,671	1·57
1862	916	2·53	1876	1,293	2·14	1890	1,594	1·45
1863	866	2·33	1877	1,245	1·98	1891	1,691	1·48
1864	855	2·22	1878	1,427	2·17	1892	1,580	1·34
1865	822	2·05	1879	1,380	2·00	1893	1,836	1·32
1866	905	2·16	1880	1,499	2·06	1894	1,592	1·29
1867	1,025	2·35	1881	1,541	2·01	1895	1,557	1·23
1868	1,023	2·25	1882	1,644	2·06	1896	1,653	1·28
1869	943	2·00	1883	1,594	1·90			

ACCIDENTS.

Accidental deaths are very numerous, especially in the country. The number registered during 1896 was 1,135, or 234 in the metropolis and 901 in the country districts. The numbers for 1895 were 206 and 695 respectively. The large increase shown in 1896 over the figures for every year of the preceding decade is due to the abnormally large nber of fatal cases of sunstroke and heat apoplexy which occurred the beginning of the year. The number of fatal accidents in the ny during each of the years 1890 to 1896 inclusive was as follows:—

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
ney and suburbs.........	214	258	215	212	226	206	234
ntry	758	685	726	659	638	695	901
Total	972	943	941	871	864	901	1,135

n the following table a more detailed account will be found of the ious fatal accidents during the last ten years:—

Year.	Fractures, Contusions.	Gunshot Wounds.	Cuts, etc.	Burns, Scalds.	Sunstroke.	Lightning.	Poison.	Bite of Snake or Insect.	Drowning.	Suffocation.	Otherwise.	All cases.		
												M.	F.	Total
1887	352	11	18	93	24	2	16	3	228	129	27	727	176	903
1888	396	28	22	133	37	5	15	5	176	42	41	713	187	900
1889	417	15	13	101	29	7	24	4	204	54	37	713	192	905
1890	394	16	9	103	17	6	21	10	319	37	40	770	202	972
1891	406	15	11	119	13	4	26	5	251	52	41	780	163	943
1892	405	31	18	103	25	2	20	4	254	44	35	734	207	941
1893	334	23	17	123	14	1	34	8	232	42	43	669	202	871
1894	348	19	28	143	15	2	23	3	206	38	39	646	218	864
1895	384	24	23	154	14	2	29	10	176	41	44	707	194	901
1896	399	17	25	139	253	5	20	5	166	51	55	873	262	1,135
Total...	3,835	199	184	1,211	441	36	228	57	2,212	530	402	7,332	2,003	9,335

The average annual rate of accidents during the ten years 1887 to 96 has been 81 per 100,000 of the population. This, although much rer than in Queensland and Western Australia, is higher than in the ier colonies, or in any country whose records are available for comrison, as will be seen from the following statement:—

New South Wales	81	Switzerland	69
Victoria	79	Italy	15
Queensland	126	Germany.......................	42
South Australia	59	Prussia	41
Western Australia...........	118	Austria	31
Tasmania	73	Hungary.......................	34
New Zealand	76	Belgium	39
England and Wales	56	Norway	64
Scotland	68	Sweden	51
Ireland	35	Russia..........................	46
France	34	United States	62
Spain	21	Denmark	23

SUICIDES.

The nu[illegible] of suicides registered in New South Wales during the ten yea[illegible]96, and the various modes adopted for the taking of life, were as [illegible]—

Year.	Shooting.		Cut, Stab, etc.		Poison.		Drowning.		Hanging.		Other Modes.		All cases.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
1887	22	...	14	1	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	26	4	4	1	97	24	121
1888	29	...	18	5	26	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	16	1	6	1	102	30	132
1889	25	...	20	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	15	3	3	1	89	23	112
1890	19	1	16	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	25	2	4	2	94	24	118
1891	36	1	14	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	29	4	2	...	100	19	119
1892	37	...	17	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	20	1	6	2	108	19	127
1893	42	...	18	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8	15	6	3	1	128	25	153
1894	29	2	15	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	17	5	5	...	111	40	151
1895	37	1	24	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	18	4	7	2	135	28	163
1896	39	1	18	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	26	3	7	...	155	27	182
Total	315	6	174	24	214	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	207	33	47	10	1,119	259	1,378

Suicide by hanging formerly claimed the largest number of male victims; but for the ten years ended 1896 there were 315 suicides of males by shooting, as against 207 by hanging. Death by poisoning was most favoured by women, there having been 115 cases during the decade, while 71 females put an end to themselves by drowning.

The following table shows the number of suicides, and the proportion to total deaths, for the last ten years:—

Year.	Suicides by males.		Suicides by females.		Total Suicides.	
	No.	Per thousand of total deaths of males.	No.	Per thousand of total deaths of females.	No.	Per thousand deaths.
1887	97	12·47	24	4·23	121	9·00
1888	102	12·07	30	5·04	132	9·16
1889	89	10·24	23	3·74	112	7·55
1890	94	11·35	24	4·04	118	8·30
1891	100	10·46	19	2·82	119	7·31
1892	108	12·64	19	3·24	127	8·81
1893	128	13·78	25	3·71	153	9·55
1894	111	12·74	40	6·20	151	9·95
1895	135	15·48	28	4·49	163	10·93
1896	155	16·75	27	4·10	182	11·49

ollowing table shows the average annual proportion of suicides, ent age-groups of males and females, per million of population, twenty-six years 1871–96 :—

ge Groups.	Average of 10 years, 1871-80.		Average of 10 years, 1881-90.		Average of 6 years, 1891-96.		Average of 26 years, 1871-96.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
and under 15 ...	3	...	4	2	7	2	5	2
" 20 ...	14	14	28	44	31	74	25	46
" 25 ...	42	45	99	44	140	69	98	53
" 30 ...	92	35	191	54	160	65	156	54
" 35 ...	184	62	231	71	250	75	226	70
" 40 ...	269	65	242	61	360	95	286	73
" 45 ...	230	109	294	102	382	48	302	87
" 50 ...	396	88	343	86	420	90	381	88
" 55 ..	388	91	500	138	540	62	482	100
" 60 ...	374	82	489	99	525	86	472	90
" 65 ...	572	192	456	90	591	217	530	157
" 70 ...	674	89	615	100	778	62	681	85
d upwards ...	406	39	504	118	960	204	628	132
l ages	176	47	205	56	251	66	212	57

figures show that suicide is steadily increasing both amongst d females, and that the disposition to self-destruction increases h year of life. The rate for females is only one-fourth of that for nd this average has been maintained in a singular manner out the whole period over which observation extends. At no period xcept during the five years 15 to 19, are females more prone to han males, nor does age develop the tendency amongst them to extent.

ience shows that conduct is largely influenced by the seasons. ds suicides, this is most plainly seen amongst males, who are one to attempt self-destruction in the first and last quarters of r than in the intervening period. January, February, and r, the three hottest months of the year, have the largest record es. For the decade ended 1896 the proportion of male suicides he four quarters of the year was as follows :—

First quarter	25·47	per cent.
Second quarter	21·36	"
Third quarter	23·32	"
Fourth quarter	29·85	"

e suicides classified by quarters for the same period show the proportion during the fourth quarter, as do the males ; but, to expectation, the proportion of the first quarter is the lowest ear, the figures being as follow :—

First quarter	20·08	per cent.
Second quarter	22·78	"
Third quarter	27·03	"
Fourth quarter	30·11	"

The m ate of the whole of Australasia for the ten years 1896 wa 5, which is slightly lower than in New South Wale respect t icide, however, all the colonies. Tasmania alone exc compar what unfavourably with Great Britain, deaths by s ave per 100,000 of population in England and Wales 5·6 nd. The following figures show the rate of deaths suicide in the Australasian colonies :—

Colony.	Per 100,000 of mean population.
Tasmania	7·8
South Australia	8·8
New Zealand	9·5
Victoria	11·5
New South Wales	11·9
Queensland	16·4
Western Australia	18·4

INDEX OF MORTALITY.

It is well-known that the ages the population considerably the death-rate of a country; and in order to have a comparison mortality of the principal countries of the world on a uniform basis, the International Statistical Institute, in its 1895 session, he Berne, decided to recommend the adoption of the population of Sw in five age-groups, as ascertained at the census of 1890, as the stan population by which the index of mortality should be calcul Applying the coefficient of mortality in each age-group in New S Wales to the age-constitution of the standard population, the ind mortality for the colony during the last ten years is found to b follows :—

Year.	Index of Mortality.	Death-rate.
	per thousand.	per thousand.
1887	16·65	13·38
1888	17·26	13·91
1889	17·22	13·87
1890	16·51	12·90
1891	18·68	14·24
1892	15·65	12·20
1893	16·71	13·24
1894	16·32	12·26
1895	15·69	11·79
1896	16·45	12·30

For purposes of comparison, the index of mortality has been calculated for each of the seven colonies of Australasia during the six years ended 1895, and the figures are set down below. How greatly the age-constitution of the population determines the annual mortality of a country may be seen from the table, which shows that in 1895 the index of mortality in Australasia ranged from 18·86 per thousand in Western Australia to 13·40 per thousand in Tasmania, while for the same year the death-rate ranged from 17·50 in Western Australia to 9·91 per thousand of population in New Zealand.

It is necessary to point out, in connection with the calculations of the indices of mortality, that the age-constitution of the population of each of the colonies during each of the six years taken has been assumed to be that which existed at the census in 1891. It is apparent that the composition of the populations of some of the colonies has changed since that date; but no data are available upon which a reliable estimate of the conditions at the present time can be based.

Colony.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
New South Wales	16·51	18·68	15·65	16·71	16·32	15·69
Victoria	18·71	19·48	16·24	16·73	15·96	16·39
Queensland	17·29	15·52	15·82	16·66	16·29	15·21
South Australia	15·33	16·75	14·07	16·10	14·61	14·36
Western Australia	15·11	21·54	18·94	18·08	16·65	18·86
Tasmania	17·25	18·01	15·64	15·43	14·74	13·40
New Zealand..................	12·87	13·95	13·59	13·56	14·44	13·98
Australasia	16·68	17·83	15·47	16·16	15·68	15·49

BURIALS.

Cemeteries in New South Wales are in some cases church property; in other cases they belong to municipal corporations; and in other cases again they are Government property administered by trustees, partly appointed and partly elected. A few cemeteries in outlying parts of the colony are in the hands of private owners. In the metropolitan area the first three kinds of ownership are all represented. The necropolis at Rookwood and the cemetery at Sutherland are Government property managed by trustees; while amongst a number of others, the Waverley and Long Bay cemeteries belong to the Waverley and Randwick municipalities respectively; and the St. Thomas's, North Sydney; Watson's Bay, St. Peters, Petersham, and Randwick cemeteries are church property. Burial fees at Rookwood range from 12s. 6d. to £1 10s., and at Waverley from £1 17s. 6d. to £2 7s. 6d., for the great majority of funerals; in exceptional cases, however, they may, according to situation and area required, amount to £10 10s. or more. The average price of funerals in the metropolitan area may be stated to be as follows:—For coffin and hearse, first class, £10; second class, £7; third class, £4; and for coaches, from £1 5s. to £1 10s. each, according to distance to be travelled; total cost—first class, £15; second class, £10 10s.; third class, £7 10s. It is impossible to establish any average for country funerals; for while in some of the larger country towns undertakers are to be found, in the majority of country places actual funeral expenses need hardly be incurred except in the shape of burial fees.

SICKNESS AND INFIRMITY.

Closely allied to the consideration of the rate of mortality is that of the rate of sickness; but it must be borne in mind that the latter is by no means directly proportioned to the former. At different periods of life mankind is exposed to different classes of disease, some virulent and of brief duration, others protracted in duration yet less fatal in their effects. Within a few months after their entrance into the world the majority of the infants prematurely born or of weak or imperfect organisation are removed by death, and others succumb to such causes as "overlaying," improper feeding—commonly termed "want of breast milk"—and "infanticide." During the next few years of life children are especially subject to such diseases as convulsions (symptomatic of undeveloped causes of sickness), measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever, and diphtheria, from which the survivors generally enjoy an immunity during the remainder of their life. Later on in the progress of years, during a period ranging from puberty to the change of life, many become victims to consumption, often after a wearisome and lingering resistance; while after entering into active life they are exposed to the risk of accidents, more or less imminent according to the occupation adopted, and resulting it may be in immediate death or in a more or less permanent sickness or disablement; and during this period the females, if not, as a rule, so exposed to external dangers, suffer frequent loss from the risks of childbirth. During the later portion of this period and the years succeeding it, many are removed by diseases from some of which they may have been secretly or unwittingly suffering for years; and the deaths from heart disease, liver diseases, and cancer are very numerous, the last-named becoming more widespread in New South Wales and more prevalent among men than among women. And last of all comes that oft-time protracted "chronic illness" generally termed "old age," when people are for the most part unable to work for the means of subsistence, and are therefore dependent on the provision they have made in the past or on the good will of others. Although in a medical sense sickness may only be used to denote that state of the body which requires the administration of medicine or the attendance and services of a medical practitioner, yet in the ordinary acceptation of the term it is employed to denote inability to follow one's usual occupation in life from whatever cause it may arise. Thus a sore thumb might be "sickness" in the case of a compositor or a bricklayer, but not in the case of his foreman or employer.

rdance with the decision of the Conference of Statisticians, an was inserted in the Census schedule with the intention of information as to the number of persons suffering from sickness ity. It was not expected that the inquiry would be on all ccessful; indeed, it was recognised that the term sickness is ue; but it is probable that the inquiry was understood to refer ty to follow ordinary occupations, or, where there was no occu- en bed-fast sickness was understood. Judging from the infor- athered from other sources, it is believed that the particulars were substantially accurate, except perhaps in regard to epilepsy y. In the case of persons suffering from the neuroses last d, it is quite possible that there was some reluctance on the hose filling up the schedule, especially where the persons con- ere their offspring, to record either infirmity except when its was too plain to be overlooked.

ing the results of the census of 1891 to be indicative of the ondition of the population of the colony, and excluding the s, it would appear that something like 2 per cent. of the nstantly suffer from some form of infirmity arising either from r from disablement of a more or less permanent character. wing table shows the number and the proportion per 1,000 from each cause :—

ss or Infirmity.	Total number.			Per thousand.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
of Infirmity	13,926	8,325	22,251	23·11	16·14	19·88
is	530	321	851	0·89	0·62	0·77
y	209	130	339	0·35	0·25	0·31
y	15	......	15	0·01	......	0·00
and undefined	5,732	4,385	10,117	9·55	8·51	9·06
Sickness	6,486	4,836	11,322	10·80	9·38	10·14
mities—						
t	1,248	211	1,459	2·09	0·41	1·31
d Dumb	210	173	383	0·35	0·34	0·34
nly	3	6	9	0·01	0·01	0·01
ly	780	568	1,348	1·30	1·10	1·21
....	416	325	741	0·69	0·63	0·66
....	1,926	1,203	3,129	3·12	2·33	2·75
....	164	122	286	0·27	0·24	0·25
d	1,182	593	1,775	1·97	1·15	1·59
Limb	566	69	635	0·94	0·13	0·57
ght of an Eye......	945	219	1,164	1·57	0·42	1·05

A s classification of the Chinese was made, but no spe featur disclosed except that 9 out of the 15 lepers were of tl nation There was also one Javanese leper. The number Chines e was 73—a much larger figure than their proportic the com y warranted; but in this the Chinese were not singular, several c nationalities had a like undue proportion.

By virtue of the Leprosy Act of 1890, the Board of Health empowered to detain and isolate persons suffering from leprosy. 1891 there were lepers in all the colonies of Australasia except T mania, and in all the cases then known to the health authorities t afflicted were of the male sex. The number of lepers in each colony that time, and the nationalities to which they belonged, were as set o in the appended table:—

Colony.	Nationality.							
	Europeans.			South Sea Islanders.	Chinese.	Javanese.	Cingalese.	Total.
New South Wales.	5	...	...	...	9	1	...	15
Victoria	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	3
Queensland	2	1	...	3	3	...	1	10
South Australia...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
New Zealand	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Total.........	8	1	4	3	18	1	1	36

On January 1st, 1897, there were 16 persons—13 males and 3 females— in the leper lazaret at Little Bay, New South Wales. This number wa considerably less than that at the beginning of the year 1896, ninete Chinese lepers having been returned to their native country in t course of the year. The present inmates belong to the following nati alities:—New South Wales, 7; England, 2; Germany, 1; India, 1; C 2, ; Java, 1; South Sea Islands, 2.

During the Census year there were 943 deaths due to acc 780 being of males and 163 of females. On the day of c 1,248 males and 211 females were recorded as suffering fro of such a nature as to require special attention.

blind numbered 416 males and 325 females, of whom 657 were and 84 under 21 years of age. Of these, 32 adults were employed ected with the Industrial Blind Institution at Sydney, and 20 n were in other public institutions.

crippled were understood such persons as through illness and t had lost the complete or partial use of one or more than one ithout being entirely deprived of the member itself. The term is o happy, seeing that a majority of the persons afflicted were not d from following gainful occupations.

deaf and dumb comprised 162 adults, and 221 children and others 21 years; of these, 57 were inmates of the Deaf and Dumb tion at Sydney. There were 780 males and 568 females returned g deaf but not dumb. Deafness, as defined in the Census schedule, ended to mean total infirmity; the inquiry, however, was possibly erstood by some, and cases of infirmity of hearing short of eafness recorded, but the figures viewed in ages give no clue to as really understood. There were 127 persons under 21 years d as deaf, and 1,221 above that age. The persons returned as ut not deaf were only 9 in number, 3 of whom were males, and les.

epileptics whose infirmity was noted on the schedule were 209 and 130 females. They probably comprised only those who were y suffering on the day of the Census—the persons with an epileptic ere doubtless much more numerous.

lready pointed out, there is reason to believe that the number of s returned as idiotic understates the truth, seeing that only 118 21 and 168 over that age were so returned. Perhaps only the ively idiotic were recorded on the Census papers, for truly n the drivelling idiot and the confessedly sane there are many of idiocy not likely to be acknowledged as such.

DURATION OF SICKNESS.

doubt accurate returns could be obtained from public institutions he duration after admission and the result of all cases which have one treatment in them, but they would not be correct enough for l use. Many of the cases of sickness might have existed for some efore the patient applied for relief, and, what is of still greater ance, as a rule only those whose condition is deemed critical are ed to a hospital, whilst what is required to make the statistics of ublic utility is that we should obtain the average duration of ess," that is, of inability to work at the usual trade or business at eriod of life.

to the present time no statistics relating to the average duration l sickness have been compiled, although in most cases valuable inform ight be obtained from the registration of deaths. far, h as relates to the duration of general sickness, import terial was compiled by the late Secretary to Manch nity of the Independent Order of Oddfellows in South s concerning the mortality and sickness among members. rom this information has been prepared the follo table, in which a comparison is made between the experienc that extensive Order in England and in New South Wales regard to the average sickness per annum to each person, the an mortality per cent., and the number of days' sickness to each deat various age groups :—

Age.	Engl			New South Wales.		
	Weeks of Sickness per Member per annum.	Mortality per cent. per annum.	of ss to ath.	Weeks of Sickness per Member per annum.	Mortality per cent. per annum.	Day Sickn
21–25	0·754	0·667	791	0·401	0·293	
26–30	0·827	0·764	758	0·512	0·455	
31–35	0·954	0·864	773	0·629	0·575	
36–40	1·100	1·046	736	0·828	0·667	
41–45	1·348	1·257	751	1·181	0·988	
46–50	1·776	1·545	805	1·583	1·087	1,
51–55	2·406	2·035	828	1·949	1·638	
56–60	3·441	2·769	867	3·299	2·278	1,
61–65	5·306	3·989	931	6·616	3·605	2,
66–70	8·399	5·638	1,043	6·949	6·019	
71–75	13·092	8·560	1,071	15·164	8·850	1,
76–80	18·307	12·204	1,050	14·860	20·000	

From the above it will be seen that both the mortality exper of the colony, and the sickness, appear to be lower than in Eng but the data for New South Wales in regard to sickness are n sufficient to enable any confident deduction to be dra tabulated results.

Expectation of Life.

matter of very common remark that nothing is more uncertain
length of life which an individual may enjoy, and nothing
tain than the duration of lives taken in the aggregate. A
professes to give the number of persons out of a given
-usually 100,000—who may be expected to survive at the end
year, commencing with birth or year 0, until the last has been
out. As a complement to this, it shows the number who
xpected to die in the course of a year, and the mean after-life-
persons at each completed year of life. This last is what is
alled the expectation of life, and is so called in the life-tables
ll be found annexed.

ta required for a life-table are the number of persons living, as
ed by an exact enumeration of the people, and the number of
corded at each year of age. Experience, however, shows that
n the case of one set of facts nor in the other is absolute
le attainable; for, without regarding those who deliberately
their age at the time of the Census, there are always some, and
ans a few, who either do not know the year of their birth, or
ensus paper return themselves as at the nearest decennial age.
s the universal experience of those who have compiled a popula-
us to find that the number of persons at age 40, for example,
xceeds that at 38, 39, 41, or 42, and similarly with 50 and other
l ages. There is also a tendency, although not to such a marked
r persons near the quinquennial ages, if they may so be termed,
45, 55, etc., to return themselves as at these ages and not at their
The ages of persons dying are stated with more exactitude,
there is a tendency for the ages to group themselves round
nial figures. It is necessary in a life-table to make allowance
bias or personal equation which the statements of ages exhibit,
the expectation of life when plotted to a scale would exhibit
f angular points, instead of the rather graceful curves which
am should show. Dr. Farr, to whose labours the world owes the
lish life-table, adopted a system of adjustment which effectually
l off the angular points to which allusion has been made;
now recognised that this smoothing process was too effectual,
ariations from uniformity at certain ages, arising from change of
the effects of climate and environment, or from emigration,
ether lost. Since the compilation of the fourth or last English
by Dr. Ogle, the question of adjustment has been very fully
, and the method used by Mr. W. S. B. Woolhouse, in adjusting
uation of the tables of mortality adopted by the Institute of
s, has met with general approval; and it is the system of
se that has been used in calculating the mortality on which the
tables are based.

Th ssumed were those ascertained at the Census take
5th A 91, and the deaths those registered as occurring du
twelve s preceding and the twelve months following the
the Ce The number of persons dealt with was 1,123,95
the n of the colony, less the aborigines; and the nu
deat two years, 30,504. It may be well to note at th
that de h-rate of 1891 was very considerably augmented
influ lemic, an abnormal proportion of deaths occurring a
aged especially females. This is a circumstance which
be t account in comparing life-tables hereafter compil
the one now presented.

The necessity for exact data in calculating life contingencies
into existence the first ut there are uses to which it
put that are entirely art from the requirements of the actua
the progress of m view is the art of prolonging lif
be measur h can be applied is the life
and it is v evidence of the improved co
of the people that in the forty rs that elapsed between the
lation of Dr. Farr's first table of the expectation of life and of
Dr. Ogle, there was an improvement of 1½ years in the expecta
birth.

It is impossible to compare the expectation of life now
tained for New South Wales with that of past years, as this
first time that the expectation has been ascertained; but a fe
parisons with Dr. Ogle's table for England may not be
interest. First, however, it may be well to allude to several m
points which should be kept in view in dealing with the New
Wales table.

The population of the colony is composed of two-thirds of
born and one-third of British or foreign parentage; and of the
over 16 years of age, about one half belong to the latter category
average length of time which the non-Australian-born have spent
colony cannot, of course, be determined; but it must be abu
plain that there is a very large number of persons in New South
whose past life has been very little influenced by Australia
ditions. Thus the mortality experience which the tables s
in reality of two kinds. The earlier ages are practically
Australian, whilst the later ages are partly Australian and
British and foreign, the latter element getting stronger as th
advance. Therefore, though the expectation here given is co
regards the population as at present constituted, it might not
the Australian-born element predominated so largely at every
does at the earlier periods. No attempt is made to differe
two elements of population, with the view of discovering wh
true, as is sometimes assumed, that the conditions ir
favourable for early and middle life, but not for old age.

ry marked superiority of the Australian over the European death-te for early ages is maintained throughout all the ages. The data by eans of which such could be done are lacking. It may here be fficient to say that there is evidence to show that the admixture of n-Australian-born has not improved the expectation of life at the ages here their presence is of importance.

An inspection of the following tables will show that the expectation of e, according to the New South Wales life-table, is greater for males for ery year up to 84 than under the English life-table of Dr. Ogle. At rth (age 0 of the table), the difference in the expectation is 8¼ years, 5 years of age, 4·03; at 10 years, 3·29 years; at 30, 2·2 years; and 60 years, 0·46. For females up to 64 years much the same results e shown. Thus, at age 0 the New South Wales expectation exceeds e English by 8·28 years; at 5 years, by 4·34; at 10 years, by 3·63; at 0 years, by 2 years; and at 60, by 0·27 years. At the ages above 4 the expectation for females is higher in the English table than that of New South Wales. It must not be supposed, however, at this means that the superiority of the ages below 84 for males d 64 for females is lost after those years are attained. Such is not e case. It is true that, compared with the population, there are more aths in New South Wales at the ages above those quoted than there are England, but it is also true that a larger proportion is then surviving New South Wales than in England. Thus out of 100,000 males rn in New South Wales, 5,920 will survive until 84, whereas in ngland the number is only 3,813. Similarly, at age 90 the survivors New South Wales would be 1,156, whereas in England they would umber 802 only. The figures in regard to females show much the me proportions. Out of 100,000 females born in New South Wales, ,725 would survive till 64, against 37,049 in England; 37,570 ould live till 70 years of age, against 27,723 in England; at age 0 the numbers would be 13,657 and 10,894; and at age 90, 1,630 and 423 respectively.

If a comparison be made with the English life table of Dr. Farr, it ill be found that in each instance the expectation for females exceeds at for males, varying in the case of New South Wales from 3·3 at e 0 to 2·5 years at 10 years, the difference gradually becoming less and ss as the ages increase, until the expectation becomes almost the same r each sex. Neither of the English life tables, as computed by Dr. Farr nd Dr. Ogle, nor that computed by the author for New South Wales, ows that the expectation of life of women of the reproductive age, say 5 to 45 years, falls nearer to that of males than at other ages. What-ver may be the risks attendant on child-bearing, it seems they do not fect the death-rate of females more largely than accidents or other sks to which males are liable at the same ages affect that of males he following are the tables of the expectation of life for New South ales:—

Expectation of Life—Males.

Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a year.	Average duration of life.	Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a year.	Average duration of life.	Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a ye	
0	·8722600	·1277400	49·60	31	·9928036			61	·9650778	·0349222	13·02
1	·9719879	·0280121	55·78	32	·9926016			62	·9617963	·0382037	12·47
2	·9873909	·0126091	56·37	33	·9922719				·9581808	·0418192	11·95
3	·9920202	·0079798	56·09	34	·9919489				·9544581	·0455419	11·45
4	·9935094	·0064906	55·54	35	·9915767				·9511891	·0488109	10·97
5	·9940609	·0059391	54·90	36	·9910973				·9491130	·0508870	10·51
6	·9954520	·0045480	54·22	37	·9906768				·9469494	·0530506	10·04
7	·9965826	·0034174	53·41	38	·9903885				·9446631	·0553369	9·58
8	·9974189	·0025811	52·65	39	·9900638				·9419265	·0580735	9·11
9	·9979421	·0020579	51·78	40	·9896719				·9377764	·0622236	8·64
10	·9981725	0018275	50·89	41	·9892689				·9317183	·0682817	8·22
11	·9980949	·0019051	49·98	42	·9887049				·9244133	·0755867	7·76
12	·9979674	·0020326	49·08	43	·9879420	·0120580	24·68	73	·9169053	·0830947	7·34
13	·9977893	·0022107	48·18	44	·9872296	·0127704	23·97	74	·9089223	·0910777	6·96
14	·9975604	·0024396	47·28	45	·9866157	·0133843	23·27	75	·9014884	·0985116	6·51
15	·9972301	·0027699	46·40	46	·9861989	·0138011	22·58	76	·8948647	·1051353	6·27
16	·9970221	·0029779	45·52	47	·9858149	·0141851	21·89	77	·8889300	·1110700	5·95
17	·9965866	·0034134	44·66	48	·9853850	·0146150	21·20	78	·8824101	·1175899	5·63
18	·9961593	·0038407	43·81	49	·9848244	·0151756	20·51	79	·8757080	·1242920	5·32
19	·9957653	·0042347	42·98	50	·9838093	·0161907	19·82	80	·8690262	·1309738	5·00
20	·9954553	·0045447	42·16	51	·9821404	·0178596	19·13	81	·8607608	·1392392	4·68
21	·9951667	·0048333	41·35	52	·9804566	·0195434	18·47	82	·8501261	·1498739	4·36
22	·9949639	·0050361	40·54	53	·9789641	·0210359	17·83	83	·8362763	·1637237	4·04
23	·9947709	·0052291	39·75	54	·9771110	·0228890	17·20	84	·8197635	·1802365	3·73
24	·9945492	·0054508	38·95	55	·9758044	·0241956	16·58	85	·7995055	·2004945	3·44
25	·9942850	·0057150	38·16	56	·9752044	·0247956	15·99	86	·7750000	·2250000	3·18
26	·9940897	·0059103	37·38	57	·9740342	·0259658	15·39	87	·7485866	·2514134	2·96
27	·9937435	·0062565	36·60	58	·9724615	·0275385	14·79	88	·7281208	·2718792	2·79
	·9934788	·0065212	35·83	59	·9709995	·0290005	14·19	89	·7053081	·2946919	2·04
	·9932225	·0067775	35·06	60	·9686662	·0313338	13·60	90	·6842561	·3157439	2·64
	·9930151	·0069849	34·30								

Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a year.	Average duration of life.	Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a year.	Average duration of life.	Age.	Expectation of living a year.	Expectation of dying in a year.	Average duration of life.
0	·8888400	·1111600	52·90	31	·9934405	·0065595	35·65	61	·9736931	·0263069	13·86
1	·9721210	·0278790	58·45	32	·9930435	·0069565	34·88	62	·9713613	·0286387	13·23
2	·9894336	·0105664	59·11	33	·9925462	·0074538	34·12	63	·9680335	·0319665	12·60
3	·9927596	·0072404	58·74	34	·9921147	·0078853	33·38	64	·9656029	·0343971	12·00
4	·9954631	·0045369	58·16	35	·9917070	·0082930	32·64	65	·9625497	·0374503	11·41
5	·9948987	·0051013	57·42	36	·9913404	·0086596	31·91	66	·9594806	·0405194	10·83
6	·9950748	·0049252	56·71	37	·9911013	·0088987	31·18	67	·9564807	·0435193	10·27
7	·9965210	·0034790	55·99	38	·9910626	·0089374	30·46	68	·9532494	·0467506	9·72
8	·9976725	·0023275	55·19	39	·9908016	·0091984	29·73	69	·9483063	·0516937	9·17
9	·9985209	·0014791	54·11	40	·9905482	·0094518	29·00	70	·9427203	·0572797	8·64
10	·9989402	·0010598	53·39	41	·9903673	·0096327	28·27	71	·9355413	·0644587	8·13
11	·9987100	·0012900	52·45	42	·9901798	·0098202	27·54	72	·9275389	·0724611	7·66
12	·9984790	·0015210	51·52	43	·9897077	·0102923	26·81	73	·9171927	·0828073	7·24
13	·9982349	·0017651	50·60	44	·9897463	·0102537	26·08	74	·9076235	·0923765	6·83
14	·9979653	·0020347	49·68	45	·9896694	·0103306	25·34	75	·8984561	·1015439	6·47
15	·9976942	·0023058	48·78	46	·9895765	·0104235	24·60	76	·8893288	·1106712	6·15
16	·9973969	·0026031	47·90	47	·9892714	·0107286	23·86	77	·8803992	·1196008	5·85
17	·9970853	·0029147	47·02	48	·9892917	·0107083	23·11	78	·8748750	·1251250	5·57
18	·9967587	·0032413	46·16	49	·9887459	·0112541	22·36	79	·8673315	·1326685	5·30
19	·9965028	·0034972	45·30	50	·9882762	·0117238	21·61	80	·8600718	·1399282	5·04
20	·9963181	·0036819	44·46	51	·9875086	·0124914	20·86	81	·8536523	·1463477	4·78
21	·9961315	·0038685	43·62	52	·9870483	·0129517	20·11	82	·8446195	·1553805	4·51
22	·9958683	·0041317	42·79	53	·9859112	·0140888	19·37	83	·8343370	·1656630	4·24
23	·9956269	·0043731	41·07	54	·9847452	·0152548	18·64	84	·8262100	·1737900	3·99
24	·9952823	·0047177	41·15	55	·9834462	·0165538	17·92	85	·8117506	·1882494	3·72
25	·9949456	·0050544	40·34	56	·9820026	·0179974	17·21	86	·7953155	·2046845	3·47
26	·9945535	·0054465	39·54	57	·9801426	·0198574	16 52	87	·7795171	·2204829	3·24
27	·9943458	·0056542	38·76	58	·9790564	·0209436	15·85	88	·7590197	·2409803	3·00
28	·9941092	·0058908	37·98	59	·9773721	·0226279	15·17	89	·7309417	·2690583	2·80
29	·9939071	·0060929	37·20	60	·9755284	·0244716	14·51	90	·6650307	·3349693	2·64
30	·9937017	·0062983	36·42								

The calcul ion was extended to 100 years, but it was deemed advis to cut t le short at 90 years, as the number of persons over age was ther too small to afford sufficient experience on whic found a able. As a matter of curiosity, it may be mentioned the expectation of life at ages over 90 was as follows :—

Age.	Living out of 100,000 born.		Expectation of life in years.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
91 ...	761	1,084	2·48	2·72
92 ...	529	[illegible]	2·41	2·64
93 ...	361	531	2·36	2·59
94 ...	242	[illegible]	2·27	2·52
95 ...	163	[illegible]	2·16	2·47
96 ...	106	[illegible]	1·96	2·42
97 ...	67	115	1·68	2·37
98 ...	42	75	1·37	2·31
99 ...	26	[illegible]	0·80	2·28
100 ...	13	31	0·16	2·31

In addition to the expectation of life in New South Wales, in following table will be found a column showing the H.M. (heal male) table of the Australian Mutual Provident Society. The responding figures of Dr. Ogle's English Life Table are also given, way of comparison. And while the after-lifetime at each age in H.M. table of the A.M.P. Society is higher than that for the colony, gradation is much the same in each calculation. That one should giv estimate of greater longevity at the different ages than the other is natural; for in computing the table for the whole colony, the t numbers of persons living and dying at each period of life are taken consideration, whereas in the case of the A.M.P. table, only sele lives, or such as would be accepted by an insurance society, form basis of computation. Looking at the two tables, therefore, in t true light, the one is, as it stands, more an index of the correctnes the other than it would be if the figures in both were identical. Farr calls the Life Table a *biometer*, and speaks of it as of equal im ance, in all inquiries connected with human life or sanitary im ments, with the barometer or thermometer and similar instr employed in physical research, and as being also the keystone on which the whole science of life assurance hinges. For ing that an insurance society had empirically arrived at e of premium for assuring lives, the Mortality or Life Table is still uired in order to ascertain the value of such premiums for a prostive term of years, as against the value of the sums assured thereby, that a statement of assets and liabilities may be periodically prered. Without such knowledge a division of "profits" would be possible. In fact, the Life Table is absolutely essential for the olution of all questions depending on the duration of human life":—

Age.	New South Wales.		H.M. A.M.P. Soc.	England. (Dr. Ogle.)	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
Birth	49·6	52·9	....	41·4	44·6
5 years	54·9	57·4	....	50·9	53·1
10 "	50·9	53·4	....	47·6	49·8
15 "	46·4	48·8	....	43·4	45·6
20 "	42·2	44·5	46·0	39·4	41·7
25 "	38·2	40·3	41·8	35·7	38·0
30 "	34·3	36·4	37·5	32·1	34·4
35 "	30·5	32·6	33·4	28·6	30·9
40 "	26·8	29·0	29·3	25·3	27·5
45 "	23·3	25·3	26·4	22·1	24·1
50 "	19·8	21·6	22·6	18·9	20·7
55 "	16·6	17·9	18·9	16·0	17·3
60 "	13·6	14·5	15·2	13·1	14·2
65 "	11·0	11·4	12·0	10·6	11·4
70 "	8·6	8·6	9·6	8·3	9·0
75 "	6·5	6·5	7·1	6·3	6·9
80 "	5·0	5·0	4·8	4·8	5·2
85 "	3·4	3·7	3·4	3·6	3·9
90 "	2·5	2·6	2·4	2·7	2·9

VACCINATION.

Vaccination is not compulsory in New South Wales, and is resorted chiefly in times of scare, when an epidemic of small-pox is thought be imminent. It is easy to discover from the returns of the Governnt vaccinators the years when the community was threatened by the ease, as at such times the number of persons submitting themselves to cination largely increased. The number returned does not include se treated by private medical officers, by whom a large number of persons are vacc[illegible] The following figures show the number of persons vaccinate[illegible] overnment Medical Officers since the year 1877:—

Year.	[illegible]	Country.	Total.	Year.	Sydney and Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
1877	[illegible]	11,943	17,251	1887	1,031	2,199	3,230
1878	[illegible]	3,038	3,570	1888	1,091	1,095	2,186
1879	[illegible]	4,981	5,638	1889	728	1,676	2,404
1880	[illegible]	4,699	5,159	1890	938	1,239	2,177
1881	8,738	52,501	61,239	1891	531	1,036	1,567
1882	380	1,869	2,249	1892	1,326	2,685	4,011
1883	296	600	896	1893	838	1,709	2,547
1884	630	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15	1,942	1,957
1885	346	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	72	2,360	2,432
1886	452	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	78	867	945

The number and ages [illegible] vaccinated by the Government Medical Officers during 189[illegible] and below:—

District.	[illegible]	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	10 years and upwards.	Total.
Sydney and suburbs	[illegible]	18	34	21	78
Country districts	[illegible]	148	402	262	867
Total	[illegible]	166	436	283	945

INSANITY.

The number of insane persons under treatment in hospitals is almost a fixed proportion of the total population, viz., 2·84 per thousand. Since 1877 the proportion has varied only from 0·10 above and 0·12 per thousand below the average stated. The hospitals for insane, under the immediate control of the Government, are seven in number—six for ordinary insane, and one, at Parramatta, for criminals. Besides these there are two licensed houses, each for a single patient, at Picton; one at Ryde for five patients; and another at Cook's River, near Sydney, containing 34 inmates.

The number of insane persons under treatment on the 31st December, 1896, under official cognisance, was 3,841. These figures are 125 in excess of the number on the register at the end of 1895, and 254 higher than at the end of 1894. From the table given below, showing the distribution of the patients, it will be seen that, in addition to the 3,841 inmates of the New South Wales asylums, four were hospitals in South Australia. This was in terms of an hich has been made with the Government of that colony, whereby atients from the Broken Hill district are sent to South Australia :—

Name of Hospital.	Number on Register.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
overnment Hospitals—			
Callan Park	469	411	880
Gladesville	522	346	868
Parramatta, free	685	383	1,068
Do criminal	44	14	58
Newcastle	153	153	306
Rydalmere	315	151	466
Kenmore	154	......	154
icensed Houses—			
Cook's River	11	23	34
Picton (two)	......	2	2
Ryde	......	5	5
uth Australian Hospitals	3	1	4
Totals	2,356	1,489	3,845

The proportion of insane to the whole population, as already pointed t, has been almost a constant quantity. This will be seen from the ccompanying table giving the number of persons in hospitals for insane the close of each year from 1877 to 1896 inclusive. It is noteworthy, owever, that in 1896 the proportion was the highest during the last wenty years, and this, too, in face of the stoppage of the influx of sane patients into the colony from other places :—

On December.	No. of Insane.	Proportion of Insane per 1,000 of population.	On 31 December.	No. of Insane.	Proportion of Insane per 1,000 of population.
1877	1,829	2·84	1888	2,898	2·80
1878	1,916	2·85	1889	2,974	2·79
1879	2,011	2·83	1890	3,102	2·82
1880	2,099	2·83	1891	3,134	2·74
1881	2,218	2·90	1892	3,312	2·77
1882	2,307	2·89	1893	3,425	2·80
1883	2,403	2·87	1894	3,587	2·87
1884	2,524	2·86	1895	3,716	2·91
1885	2,643	2·85	1896	3,841	2·96
1886	2,717	2·80			
1887	2,821	2·81		Mean	2·84

The amount of insanity in New South Wales and in England, co pared with their respective populations, is about the same. The great proportion of lunacy in these colonies is found in Victoria, and lowest in Western Australia, Tasmania, and South Australia.

The following figures show the number of insane persons per thous of the population in the United Kingdom, and in the Australas colonies :—

Country.	Insane persons per 1,000 of population.	Country.	Insane persons per 1,00 of population.
England	2·9	Queensland	3·0
Scotland	2·9	South Australia	2·6
Ireland	3·2	Western Australia	1·6
New South Wales	2·9	Tasmania	2·3
Victoria	3·5	New Zealand	3·2

The percentage of deaths of insane persons is comparatively lig The following table has been computed on the basis of the aver number of patients resident in hospitals for the insane :—

Year.	Percentage of deaths of average number resident.			Year.	Percentage of deaths of aver number resident.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Tot
1887	6·64	7·03	6·79	1893	8·37	5·86	7·6
1888	7·59	6·31	7·10	1894	6·12	5·22	5·7
1889	7·73	6·43	7·23	1895	6·83	5·27	6·2
1890	7·00	5·73	6·52	1896	7·18	4·67	6·2
1891	8·42	5·65	7·39				
1892	6·26	5·72	6·06	Mean...	7·21	5·79	6·6

It has been suggested that there is a very intimate connection betw commercial depression and the increase in the number of insane pers admitted to the asylums of the colony. A glance at the figures 1892 and succeeding years, during which such depression has b sorely felt, would seem to favour this view, seeing that the proport per thousand of the population advanced from 0·52 in 1891 to 0·56 1892, 0·58 in 1894, and 0·57 in 1896. But these figures do not fin dispose of the question, for during the seven years which closed w 1883—a period of general prosperity—the admissions ranged from 0 to 0·57 per thousand. It is very probable that the most immedi effect of depressed times is to send to the asylums a number of harml but demented persons, who in more prosperous days are supported their relatives. On the other hand, the quota of admissions to asyl in prosperous times is maintained by insanity induced directly indirectly by the means of indulgence which high wages and la gains commonly afford. The number of admissions to the hospit sane, and the proportion per 1,000 of the mean population, are below :—

ar.	Admissions.	Proportion to population per 1,000.	Year.	Admissions.	Proportion to population per 1,000.
77	457	0·72	1888	587	0·55
78	424	0·64	1889	550	0·50
79	440	0·63	1890	611	0·54
80	476	0·65	1891	596	0·52
81	494	0·64	1892	666	0·56
82	473	0·59	1893	688	0·57
83	476	0·57	1894	712	0·58
84	493	0·55	1895	715	0·57
85	567	0·60	1896	740	0·57
86	567	0·58			
87	532	0·52		Mean	0·58

til June, 1893, there was no law in force in this colony to prevent nflux of insane persons, and, as a consequence, the splendid als which the bounty of the Government has established for the ent of the insane were the means of burdening the community he care of unfortunate persons belonging to other countries where eatment meted out to the insane is less generous or less scientific in New South Wales. On the date mentioned, Act 56 Vic. 3 came into force. Section 4 of this measure renders the owner, rer, agent or master of a vessel liable for the maintenance of any person landed in the colony. During the year 1896 there were dmissions of persons from outside the colony, the cost of main- g whom was charged to the persons liable under the statute.

following figures show the birthplaces of patients under care in spitals for the insane during the year 1896 :—

Country.	No. of Patients.	Percentage of total.	Country.	No. of Patients.	Percentage of total.
South Wales ...	1,685	36·70	France	25	0·54
British Colonies	267	5·82	Germany	100	2·18
d	966	21·04	China	87	1·90
d	210	4·57	Other countries......	243	5·29
d	1,008	21·96			

this table and the two following the figures represent the total er of patients under care during the year 1896, and not the number ning on the register on the 31st December, as previously given. l be seen from the figures set down above that the number of s under restraint who are natives of this colony forms only 36·70 nt. of the total, whilst, it may be pointed out, the native-born nt of the total population is above 64 per cent. Of the British- patients, England contributes over one and a half times the er that her population in this country would warrant, and Ireland y three and a third times the number.

The ages of the 4,591 insane patients under care during 1896 we appended. Nearly one half of the whole number—46·07 per cent.— between the ages of 30 and 50 years.

Ages of Insane.	No. of Patients.	Percentage of all ages.
Under 5 years	8	0·17
5 and under 10 years	44	0·96
10 " 15 "	57	1·24
15 " 20 "	111	2·42
20 " 30 "	662	14·42
30 " 40 "	1,110	24·18
40 " 50 "	1,005	21·89
50 " 60 "	898	19·56
60 " 70 "	471	10·26
70 " 80 "	186	4·05
80 " 90 "	36	0·78
90 years and upwards	3	0·07

Juvenile lunatics are as a rule sent to the Hospital for the Ins at Newcastle—an asylum which is set apart for imbecile and idi patients; so that of the 109 mentioned in the foregoing table as bei under 15 years of age, the majority were in that institution.

The major portion of the persons under restraint in 1896 were sing Amongst the married and widowed, females largely predominated.

Conditions as to Marriage.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single	1,918	758	2,676
Married	575	748	1,323
Widowed	109	189	298
Unascertained	217	77	294

It is popularly supposed that the principal cause of insanity is inte perance. The experience of this colony, however, does not bear out t opinion. The amount of insanity directly due to drink, though certai large, is not so considerable as that due to other causes. As far as records of the hospitals show, the proportion of persons admitted suf ing from insanity traceable to intemperance was not more than 9·99 cent. of the total admissions for the ten years ending with 1896.

Persons suffering from mania induced by excess of drink recover c paratively quickly, and at any one time their number in the hospi for the insane is scarcely more than 5·5 per cent. The most po cause appears to be hereditary influence. How far this is produc of insanity cannot, however, be exactly determined; for although Inspector-General of the Insane, a high authority on lunacy, has as tained that hereditary influence and congenital defect can be credi with only 11·61 per cent. of the total insanity, this percentage gives actual amount of hereditary insanity in the colony. Of the er of patients the causes of whose insanity is unknown, it is at in most instances the insanity is due to hereditary in- d even in those cases where the primary cause of insanity has ained, there is a strong presumption that many of the patients ted an insane neurosis.

ollowing table will be found the percentages of the various nsanity. The calculations are made on the apparent or uses in the cases of all patients admitted into the asylums d houses for the insane during the ten years 1887–1896 :—

ause of Insanity.	Percentage of causes of male insanity.		Percentage of causes of female insanity.		Percentage of total insanity.	
rouble (including loss of re- nd friends)	1·25		6·18		3·19	
rcumstances (including busi- xiety and pecuniary diffi-	5·23		2·03		3·97	
xiety and "worry" (not in- nder above two heads), and k	2·63	11·94	2·84	16·89	2·71	13·89
xcitement	1·29		2·23		1·66	
s (including seduction)	0·28		1·55		0·79	
l nervous shock	0·18		1·39		0·65	
	0·75		0·57		0·68	
	0·33		0·10		0·24	
nce in drink	13·22		5·04		9·99	
(sexual)	0·50		0·71		0·59	
lisease	1·03		0·03		0·64	
	1·93		0·03		1·18	
	2·46		0·54		1·70	
or injury	3·43		0·98		2·46	
	......		0·78		0·31	
n and the puerperal state	......		7·97		3·14	
	......		1·45		0·57	
d ovarian disorders	......	42·23	1·25	40·24	0·49	41·44
	0·79		0·71		0·76	
life	......		3·04		1·20	
	0·13		0·58		0·31	
and overwork	0·94		0·47		0·76	
	6·37		5·20		5·91	
	0·29		0·17		0·24	
skull and brain	2·81		0·95		2·08	
	4·48		3·72		4·18	
ily diseases and disorders	3·54		6·25		4·60	
opium and cocaine	0·31		0·37		0·33	
acks	9·24		10·17		9·61	
nfluence ascertained	5·23	19·50	8·95	24·59	6·70	21·51
lefect ascertained	4·77		5·13		4·91	
ained causes	0·26		0·34		0·29	
	......	26·33	......	18·28	......	23·16

During the year 1896 the deaths of persons afflicted with lunacy numbered 231, viz., 165 males and 66 females. The following are the causes of death, and the number who died from each disease :—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cerebral Disease :—			
Apoplexy and paralysis	7	1	8
Epilepsy and convulsions	13	4	17
General paralysis	46	4	50
Maniacal and melancholic exhaustion and decay	4	5	9
Inflammation and other diseases of the brain, softening, tumour, &c.	19	7	26
Thoracic Disease :—			
Inflammation of lungs, pleura, and bronchi	8	11	19
Pulmonary consumption	17	8	25
Disease of heart and blood-vessels	5	5	10
Asthma	1	......	1
Abdominal Disease :—			
Inflammation and ulceration of stomach, intestines, and peritoneum	1	8	9
Dysentery and diarrhœa	2	1	3
Albuminuria	4	1	5
Disease of bladder and prostate	1	......	1
Disease of liver	......	1	1
Disease of uterus	......	1	1
General debility and old age	27	7	34
Gangrene	1	......	1
Septicæmia	......	1	1
Cancer	2	1	3
Locomotor ataxy	1	......	1
Leucocythæmia	1	......	1
Accident	3	......	3
Suicide	2	......	2
Total	165	66	231

Of the above total, 28 males and 11 females were from 70 to 9 years of age, so that the malady of lunacy is not incompatible wi longevity.

The average weekly cost of maintaining insane patients in the hospital during the year 1896 was about 10s. 5¾d. per head, of which th State paid 9s. 0¼d., the balance being made up by contributions from th estates of the patients themselves, or by their friends. The subjoin shows the average weekly cost per head, and the average private ibutions, from 1887 to 1896 :—

Year.	Cost per head to State.	Contribution per head from private sources.	Total weekly cost per head.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1887	10 6	1 5½	11 11½
1888	10 2	1 6¼	11 8¼
1889	11 3¼	1 6½	12 9¾
1890	10 4¼	1 7	11 11¼
1891	10 5¼	1 8	12 1¼
1892	10 2	1 9½	11 11½
1893	9 6¼	1 8½	11 2¾
1894	8 11	1 8	10 7
1895	9 4	1 7¼	10 11¼
1896	9 0¼	1 5½	10 5¾
Average for 10 years	9 11½	1 7¼	11 6¾

e following table gives a distribution of the average weekly expen- e per patient in each of the hospitals for the insane during the 1896. The Kenmore hospital has only been recently established, has the burden of a comparatively heavy initial cost. This insti- n is fitted with every convenience which experience and humanity uggest :—

Hospital.	Daily average number of Patients.	Average Weekly Expenditure per Patient.					
		Salaries and Fees.	Provisions, Stimulants, etc.	Medicines and Surgical Instruments	Stores, Fuel and Light, and incidentals.	Total Weekly Cost.	Net Cost to State.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ville	821	0 5 0½	0 3 11	0 0 1	0 2 4¾	0 11 5	0 9 6¾
atta	1,095	0 3 11	0 3 3	0 0 1	0 2 1½	0 9 4¼	0 8 8¼
Park	824	0 4 10¼	0 4 1¾	0 0 1¼	0 2 5	0 11 6½	0 8 10¾
stle	311	0 3 8¾	0 2 5¾	0 0 0½	0 2 5¼	0 8 7¼	0 7 6¼
ere	402	0 3 8¼	0 2 10½	0 0 0¾	0 2 4	0 8 11¾	0 8 1¾
re	153	0 5 10¾	0 4 9½	0 0 2¼	0 4 1½	0 15 0	0 14 7½

uring 1896 the total expenditure on the insane amounted to ,928, of which £99,900 was the cost of maintenance of the various itals, and £204 was paid on account of New South Wales patients uth Australian institutions. From that amount there falls to be cted a sum of £13,913 derived from collections, etc., leaving the ost to the State at £90,015. The amount received on account of nts in the State hospitals was £13,857, leaving the net annual cost ese institutions at £86,043, equal to £23 9s. 5d. per patient. In ourse of the last ten years the number of patients resident in the itals for the insane has increased by 36 per cent., while during the period the increase in expenditure has only equalled 16½ per cent.

Criminal lunatics are confined at Parramatta. At the end of 1896 the number in confinement was 58, of whom 44 were males and 14 females, as compared with 49 twelve months before. The offences for which the criminal insane are detained are amongst the blackest in the calendar, as will be seen from the following table, which refers to the number in the institution on the 31st December, 1896 :—

Crimes committed by the Insane.	Number of Insane.		
	Males.	Females.	Total
Murder	19	6	25
Attempt to murder	1	1	2
Rape	1	......	1
Indecent assault	2	......	2
Unnatural offence	1	......	1
Cutting and wounding, shooting with intent, etc.	13	4	17
Horse stealing	1	......	1
Burglary	1	......	1
Forgery and uttering	......	1	1
Vagrancy	......	1	1
Inflicting grievous bodily harm	2	......	2
Breaking and entering with intent	2	......	2
Obscene language	......	1	1
Assault and robbery	1	......	1
Total	44	14	58

Detention in the hospitals for the insane is usually terminated by the discharge of the patient on recovery, or for probation when relief has been afforded, to which, of course, must be added removal by death. Omitting the few cases where patients absconded, the following figures give the departures during the last ten years :—

Year.	Discharged.				Died.	
	Recovered.		Relieved.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1887	115	99	11	14	111	74
1888	167	108	20	11	132	68
1889	135	109	8	4	138	71
1890	141	116	21	8	128	65
1891	168	129	11	17	167	66
1892	154	107	17	14	122	69
1893	156	130	21	21	172	74
1894	162	134	27	27	130	69
1895	175	133	32	20	151	72
1896	185	147	26	19	165	66
Total ...	1,558	1,212	194	155	1,416	694

During the period included in the above table 5,562 male and 3,553 nale patients were under treatment; therefore the proportion per cent. the total number belonging to each class was—

	Per cent. of Patients. Males.	Per cent. of Patients. Females.
Recovered	28·01	34·11
Relieved	3·45	4·36
Died	25·46	19·53

The returns for the same period show the following results:—

	Males.	Females.
Average annual discharges	175	137
Average annual readmissions	43	33

ence it appears that of the patients discharged as recovered or eved, some 25 per cent. of males and 24 per cent. of females are dmitted. Deducting, therefore, from the number of discharges the bable cases of relapse, it will be found that on an average the annual nber of permanent recoveries, temporary recoveries, and deaths will represented in the following proportions:—

	Males.	Females.
Permanent recoveries	418	500
Temporary recoveries	135	163
Deaths	447	337

Hence it may be said that out of every thousand males who become ates of asylums for the insane, 418 will be released from their fering by recovery, and 582 only by death; and of females, the portion will be 500 by recovery, and 500 by death. As the average of the patients does not differ greatly in the case of both sexes, the nparison may be accepted as a fair one, especially as the average time residence in the asylum is also about the same.

The average period of residence can be determined indirectly from a nparison between the number of persons admitted and those resident a given date, and it would appear that for the ten years which sed with 1896, the average was 5·26 years for males and 5·12 for males.

As the annual cost of each patient is nearly £23 10s., every person ho is admitted to the hospitals for the insane entails a loss to the tate of about £122.

THE history of primary education in New South Wale
divided into four periods. During the first period,
until 1848, the system in force was purely denominational,
ment granting to the heads of religious bodies assistance i
to the amount expended by them for educational purposes.
no provision for the establishment of schools entirely under
and considerable dissatisfaction was the result. As early
had been attempts to secure a modification of the system
in 1839 a grant was made for the purpose of imparting ins
from sectarian influence, to the children of those persons
to denominational education. It was not, however, until 1
definite steps were taken in the direction of effecting a c
educational policy of the State. In that year a Committee
lative Council reported in favour of the adoption of the I
School system, and, in accordance with this recommenda
was passed in 1848 constituting two Boards, to one o
entrusted the administration of denominational education
other the undenominational, or, as it was called, the Nati
primary education in the colony thus entering upon its se
This anomaly of two rival Boards, after existing for eighte
abolished by the Public Schools Act of 1866, which, thou
for the continuance of the two distinct classes of school
schools receiving aid from the State under the control
appointed by the Government, and styled the Council of E
public schools being entirely administered by this Bo
denominational schools governed in conjunction with the var
bodies by whom they had been founded. Although the
lished by this Act was essentially one of transition, educat
less made considerable progress during the period when it
It was, however, found impossible to maintain this dual sys

nder the Public Instruction Act of 1880, which received the Royal t on the 16th April in that year, the entire educational system of olony was remodelled. In the first place, the Education Act of was repealed, the Council of Education dissolved, and the control ucational matters placed in the hands of a Minister for Public uction. Provision was made for the establishment and mainten- of public schools, to afford primary instruction to all children ut sectarian or class distinction; of superior public schools, in additional lessons in the higher branches might be given; of ng public schools, with the object of instructing persons who had eceived the advantages of primary education while of school age; f high schools for boys and girls, in which the course of instruction d be of such a character as to complete the public school curri- , or to prepare students for the University. It was provided that schools administered under the Act the teaching should be strictly ectarian; but the words "secular instruction" were held to include al religious teaching, as distinguished from dogmatical or polemical gy. The history of England and of Australia, it was decided, d form part of the course of secular instruction. Four hours g each school day were to be devoted to secular instruction sively; but it was provided that another hour each day might be art for religious instruction, to be given in a separate class-room clergyman or religious teacher of any persuasion to children of the persuasion whose parents had no objection to their receiving such ous instruction.

is provision permitting religious instruction to be given to scholars ate schools has been taken advantage of to some extent by several e denominations. Eleven salaried teachers are employed by the ch of England in the Diocese of Sydney to give special religious uction in public schools. One of the Bishop's chaplains holds the intment of Diocesan Inspector of Schools, but he has no authority de the classes for special religious instruction. The Presbyterian Wesleyan clergy also visit the public schools for the purpose nparting religious instruction to children belonging to those minations.

is compulsory for parents to send their children between the ages and 14 years to school for at least seventy days in each half-year, s just cause of exemption can be shown. Penalties are provided e Act for breaches of this provision. But although education is ulsory, it is not altogether free, for parents are required to pay a ly fee of 3d. per child, but not exceeding 1s. in all for the children e family. Power is given, however, to the Minister or the Local d to remit the fees where it is shown that the parents are unable y. The fees, except those received from pupils attending evening ls, are not the property of the teacher, but are paid into the Con- ated Revenue Fund. School children are allowed to travel free by to the nearest public school.

Other sections of the Act permit of the establishment of pro schools, and the appointment of itinerant teachers in remote and populated districts. Provision is also made for the establishm training schools for teachers. It is enacted that Local Boards s appointed, whose duty it is to visit and inspect the public schools under their supervision, to suspend teachers in cases of misc not admitting of delay, to endeavour to induce parents to sen children regularly to school, and to report the names of pare guardians who refuse or fail to educate their children. It sho observed that parents are not compelled to send their children public schools; they have full choice in the matter, the Stat insisting that a certain standard of education shall be attained, no whether the instruction be imparted in public or private schools.

Great as has been the material progress of the colony, its intel advancement has been much more rapid. At the Census of 1881, the 751,468 persons enumerated, there were 195,029, or very ne per cent., unable to read; while at the Census of 1891, out of a tion (exclusive of aborigines) of 1,123,954 persons, only 244, 21·7 per cent., were returned as unable to read. Included i number were 165,781 children of 4 years of age and under, there were only 78,617 persons, or 7 per cent. of the population 5 y age and over, who were unable to read—a very small proportion w is remembered that this number includes Chinese, Polynesians, and

Another gauge of educational progress will be found in the ent the marriage registers signed by marks. The earliest official rec marriages is that for 1857. Of 5,804 persons married during tha 1,646, or 28·4 per cent., were unable to sign the marriage register; in 1896 the number of such persons was only 371, or 2·2 per c the total number married. A generation has passed away durin period embraced by the following table, and the improvement thereby cannot fail to be interesting:—

Year.	Persons married.	Percentage signing with marks.	Number signing with marks.	Year.	Persons married.	Percentage signing with marks.
1857	5,804	28·4	1,646	1886	15,622	4·0
1860	5,890	26·5	1,559	1887	15,180	3·5
1865	7,156	22·1	1,579	1888	15,688	3·7
1870	7,696	18·2	1,403	1889	15,060	3·4
1875	9,210	12·3	1,129	1890	15,752	2·7
1880	11,144	6·7	743	1891	16,914	3·1
1881	12,568	6·9	872	1892	16,044	3·1
1882	13,896	5·6	782	1893	15,498	2·2
1883	14,810	6·1	903	1894	15,332	1·9
1884	14,964	5·2	783	1895	16,060	2·1
1885	15,236	4·7	723	1896	16,990	2·2

he progress which this table shows is marvellous; and, moreover, in idering the proportion of persons signing with marks in 1896, the must not be lost sight of that, of the 371 persons who so affixed their atures to the marriage registers in that year, a large number were born in New South Wales, and arrived too late in life to avail nselves of its educational system. In some of the other colonies the ree of illiteracy, as disclosed by the marriage registers, is even less in New South Wales, as will be seen from the following figures, ch in every case are for the year 1896:—

	Percentage signing with marks.
New South Wales	2·2
Victoria	0·7
Queensland	2·5
South Australia	1·4
Western Australia	6·0
Tasmania	5·0
New Zealand	0·7

he percentage of persons signing with marks in Western Australia and nania is, it will be seen, much higher than in any of the other colonies. nly an imperfect comparison of the number of children receiving in-tion during past years can be made, as the number in actual attend- cannot be distinguished from the number enrolled. The following gives the number of schools, both public and private, including University, and the number of enrolled scholars for a period of -one years; and though it cannot be taken as absolutely correct, ay be relied on as being fairly indicative of the educational progress e colony. Victoria, it should be remembered, was separated in 1851, e in 1861 Queensland had also been formed into a separate colony:—

Year.	Mean Population of the Colony.	Schools.	Children enrolled.	Percentage of population enrolled.
1836	77,096	85	3,391	4·4
1841	149,669	209	9,632	6·4
1846	196,704	394	19,033	9·7
1851	197,168	423	21,120	10·7
1856	286,873	565	29,426	10·3
1861	357,978	849	37,874	10·6
1866	428,813	1,155	59,594	13·9
1871	517,758	1,450	77,889	15·0
1876	614,181	1,629	131,620	21·4
1881	778,690	2,066	197,412	25·4
1886	989,340	2,833	226,860	22·9
1891	1,165,300	3,175	252,947	21·7
1892	1,197,650	3,236	258,582	21·6
1893	1,223,370	3,317	257,875	21·1
1894	1,251,450	3,386	259,466	20·7
1895	1,277,870	3,463	270,176	21·1
1896	1,297,640	3,483	277,675	21·4

The number of children given above as enrolled in the various sch exceeds, in almost every case, the actual school attendance, as the gr enrolment for the year is given, and not the mean for each quart The latter information cannot be obtained except for recent years, b the figures as they stand give a basis of comparison which is not with value.

The following table shows the gross enrolment of distinct chil during the ten years which closed with 1896, as well as the quarte enrolment, in the public and private schools of the colony, omitti the University. The mean quarterly enrolment may be taken as givi the nearest approximation to the number of children actually un tuition in State and private schools :—

Year.	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.		
			Gross enrolment.	Mean quarterly enrolment.	Percentage of children school age in mean quarte enrolment.
1887	2,925	5,714	224,510	197,712	81·3
1888	2,950	5,767	226,856	201,083	80·7
1889	3;073	5,886	232,840	206,326	80·9
1890	3,120	6,574	237,853	212,969	81·3
1891	3,161	7,028	250,691	223,296	82·6
1892	3,221	7,353	256,388	231,954	82·8
1893	3,302	7,305	255,678	231,728	81·0
1894	3,371	7,419	257,281	232,694	79·5
1895	3,447	7,422	268,047	243,726	81·4
1896	3,467	7,529	275,570	250,992	82·3

In the gross enrolment for 1896 the 1,193 children in reformatori industrial schools, and charitable institutions were not included. Takin these into account, 82·7 per cent. of all the children of school age we receiving instruction in schools. The ages of children enrolled at Stat and private schools during 1896 were as follow :—

Age Period.	State Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.
Under 6 years	13,052	6,929	19,981
6 and under 14 years	191,256	40,376	231,632
14 years and over ...	17,295	6,662	23,957
Total	221,603	53,967	275,570

Under the Public Instruction Act it is only compulsory to se children between the ages of 6 and 14 years to school; but children o rs of age are received at the public schools, and, as will be seen the figures given, many scholars of that age are in attendance at and private schools, as well as a very considerable number who passed the school age.

cording to the Census of 1891, the number of children of school n New South Wales—that is to say, those who were not less than ars of age, and had not passed the age of 14—was 211,880, of n 184,860 were receiving instruction in public and private schools public institutions, namely, 148,870 at State schools, and the inder at the various private and denominational schools, reform- es, and charitable institutions in the colony; 10,810 were receiving uction at home; and 16,210 were under no tuition, but this ber must have included a number of boys who had left school. number of children of school age receiving instruction formed 92·35 cent. of the total; and in addition there were 26,981 children de the limits of school age who were in attendance at State ls, 11,179 at private and denominational schools, as well as 283 nts at the University of Sydney. The total known enrolment at te schools during the December quarter of 1896 was 53,967, and verage attendance, 43,069. Of the net yearly enrolment at the schools, 67·1 per cent. of the children attended school 70 days or in the first half of 1896, and 72·4 per cent. in the second half of ear.

ving to the sparseness of the population in nearly all the country icts of the colony, the compulsory clauses of the Instruction Act ot be strictly enforced. Nevertheless, the number of children ing up in absolute ignorance is by no means great, and, though the ortion of such children cannot be even approximately determined, is sufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that it is steadily asing. At the Census periods of 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891, the ee of education of every 10,000 children from 5 and under 10 years e was as follows:—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Read and write	2,355	3,470	4,413	5,377
Read only	3,289	2,752	1,982	1,368
Unable to read	4,356	3,778	3,605	3,255

king the children from 10 and under 15 years, the comparison is more satisfactory:—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Read and write	6,769	7,666	8,804	9,705
Read only	1,854	1,292	614	143
Unable to read	1,377	1,042	582	152

e steady decrease in the proportion of illiterate children from 1861 71, and from 1871 to 1881, is plainly visible from the above tables, the Census of 1891 showed that this satisfactory decrease inued.

STATE SCHOOLS.

When the present Public Instruction Act came into operatio
the 30th April, 1880, the Council of Education ceased to exist,
handed over to the new administration the schools which at that
were under its control. At the date mentioned there were mainta
or subsidised by the Government, 1,220 schools, attended by 101,
scholars, thus distributed :—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils
Public	705	68,823
Provisional	313	8,312
Half-time	97	1,683
Denominational	105	22,716
Total	1,220	101,534

At the close of 1882 the connection of the denominational sc
with the State ceased, and the subsequent year is marked, as was to
been expected, by a considerable falling off in the number of chil
who were receiving their education at the expense of the State.
check only operated for a short period, as the year 1884 show
recovery of more than the ground lost. This will be seen by the fo
ing table, which shows the enrolment and attendance of children at S
supported schools under the Public Instruction Act only :—

Year.	Gross enrolment of distinct children.	Quarterly enrolment.	Average attendance.
1882	159,490	134,872	90,944
1883	155,824	130,205	88,546
1884	167,134	139,159	95,215
1885	180,929	146,570	100,462
1886	179,990	153,244	105,538
1887	184,060	157,262	106,408
1888	186,692	160,919	112,220
1889	191,215	164,701	114,569
1890	195,241	170,357	116,665
1891	205,673	178,278	122,528
1892	210,641	186,207	132,580
1893	210,277	186,327	128,322
1894	206,265	181,678	130,089
1895	216,396	192,075	139,978
1896	221,603	197,025	142,192

From the time of the withdrawal of aid from denominational sc
up to the end of 1896 the increase in the average quarterly enrolme
State schools was 46·1 per cent. It will be noticed that the enrol
in 1894 was considerably less than in the previous year. The dec
was due to a number of causes, chief amongst which was the prese
epidemics in the early part of the year, and of continuous wet we

the September quarter. There is no doubt, too, that the depression trade induced many parents to keep their children from school, ither on account of inability to pay the fees or in order to secure the sistance they might render to the home. In the course of the year, o, the minimum age at which children were received at school was ised from 5 to 6 years during a period of eight or nine months. The crease in the average quarterly enrolment to the end of 1896 was as llows :—

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1885	5·3	1891	4·6
1886	4·6	1892	4·4
1887	2·6	1893	0·1
1888	2·3	1894	*2·5
1889	2·4	1895	5·7
1890	3·4	1896	2·6

* Decrease.

The number of schools under the direct control of the Department ring 1896 was 2,574, or 2,785 departments, thus classified :—

	Departments.
High Schools	5
Public Schools—Superior	249
,, Primary	1,660
Provisional Schools	310
Half-time Schools	497
House-to-house Schools	44
Evening Schools	20
Total	2,785

These schools provided accommodation for 239,354 pupils, being an crease of accommodation for 1,421 pupils more than the number proled for in the previous year.

Below will be found a statement giving the number of State Schools each of the Australasian colonies in 1896, together with the number scholars in average attendance :—

Colony.	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Average attendance of Pupils per School.
New South Wales	2,574	4,442	142,192	55
Victoria	1,883	4,497	138,241	73
Queensland	772	1,717	54,316	70
South Australia	639	1,164	40,449	63
Western Australia	150	281	6,470	43
Tasmania	270	489	11,508	43
New Zealand	1,533	3,515	109,253	71
Australasia	7,821	16,105	502,429	64

o the average quarterly enrolment of children per school department 71. The following table shows the classification of the teaching at the end of 1896 :—

Grade.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Principal Teachers............	1,725	521	2,246
Mistresses of Departments	....	210	210
Assistants	271	613	884
Students in Training Schools	25	26	51
Pupil-teachers..................	299	660	959
Work-mistresses...............	....	67	67
High School Teachers	12	13	25
Total..................	2,332	2,110	4,442

The teachers obtain promotion only after passing a series of examina- ns, which are so framed as to efficiently test their progress in literary ainments, and their skill in imparting knowledge. There are ten sses of public schools. In these, the salaries paid to male married chers range from £123 to £422, inclusive of quarters valued at £20 £72, and with a deduction of £12 from salaries not exceeding £254, ere the Department provides assistance in teaching sewing. Un- rried male teachers in charge of schools receive from £91 to £350, d female teachers from £91 to £159. Teachers in half-time schools e paid at the same rates as teachers in public schools of corresponding ssification. The salaries of mistresses in charge of girls' departments nge from £170 to £250; and of those in charge of infants' departments, m £150 to £180. Assistant male teachers receive from £103 to 25, and assistant female teachers from £95 to £150. Ex-students training schools acting as assistants receive £96 to £113 in the case males, and £84 to £96 in the case of females. Ex-pupil teachers, le or female, acting as assistants, receive £90 if they have passed ir final examination, and if not, £72. The salaries of work-mistresses ge from £86 to £114 ; of provisional teachers, from £72 to £88 ; of le pupil-teachers from £40 to £68 ; and of female pupil-teachers, from to £46. Teachers in house-to-house schools receive £4 10s. per d of average attendance, with a maximum of £90. Special allow- es may be granted to teachers stationed in remote localities, where cost of living is high.

The supply of teachers is obtained from three sources—the two train- colleges ; ex-pupil teachers who do not enter a training college ; and ng persons, not less than 18 years of age, who have been mostly cated in the public schools of the colony, and who undergo a short rse of training under qualified teachers. Few teachers trained outside tl lony find employment under the department. At the street Tr ng School for males 26 students attended the cour training ng the year; while at the Hurlstone Training Schoo female students, the number in residence was 29. At the beginni 1895 new regulations came into force, under which the period of ing in these schools was reduced from two years to twelve months, the provision that students who obtain a certain classification at th of the year's training shall be granted a University Scholarship period of twelve months, renewable for a second year under conditions. In 1896 the pupil-teachers in the service numbered whom 299 were males and 660 females. The pupil-teachers are car selected, and are taken on probation for three months before the permanently employed. d, they have to serve a term o years, when if they are succ passing the necessary examina they may enter one of the tra schools.

The local supervision of th ic schools is placed in the har School Boards appointed in rious districts of the colony, the provisions of the Public I ion Act. These Boards are sup to exercise a general oversig egard to the public schools in districts, but cannot interfere e internal discipline or manage of the schools, which remain he direct control of the Minis Public Instruction, throu spectors and other officers o department. The total nu Boards in operation at the cl 1896 was 288.

The average cost per child in average attendance at the public sc has greatly varied, as will be seen by the following table, which the amounts for the last ten years:—

Year.	For school premises.			For the maintenance of schools.			For administration and training schools.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1887	1	2	6½	4	3	7½	0	11	3½	5	17	5½
1888	0	15	1	4	1	7¾	0	9	8½	5	6	5¼
1889	0	19	1½	4	2	6¼	0	9	3¼	5	10	11
1890	1	5	9½	4	5	3	0	9	8¼	6	0	8¾
1891	1	11	2¾	4	5	0½	0	9	4	6	5	7¼
1892	1	3	9¼	4	3	6¼	0	8	7¼	5	15	10¾
1893	0	17	7	4	5	8½	0	8	2	5	11	5½
1894	0	11	4¼	4	2	9¼	0	7	6	5	1	7½
1895	0	14	11	3	18	9¼	0	6	7	5	0	[illegible]
1896	0	7	11¾	3	17	3¼	0	6	4¼	4	11	

considering the question of the expenditure on education in New Wales during past years, it should be borne in mind that the expenses igent upon the necessity of obtaining efficient results in a country h a vast extent and so sparsely populated were unavoidably great: l-houses had to be built, teachers required training, and the whole tional machinery had to be provided in many parts of the country there was, perhaps, only a denominational school, or, just as likely, ucational establishment at all. To these initial expenses was due, reat measure, the relatively high cost of public education in the first ears after the passing of the Act of 1880. In 1883, for instance, the cost per child in average attendance was not less than £9 5s. 7d. 87 this had been reduced to £5 17s. 5½d., and since that year there een a further decrease to £4 11s. 7¼d. It may be expected that ost will not at any time greatly exceed the present figures, as the lhouses have been built with due regard to the increase in the er of scholars which must be anticipated in a young, promis- and growing colony. Most of the school-buildings, too, are of racter that would do credit to the most advanced countries of world, the greatest care having been taken to embody all the ovements which the experience of centuries has suggested in older nunities.

e following figures, showing the cost of each child in average dance at the public schools of the seven colonies in 1896, exclusive e expenditure on buildings, disclose the fact that in New South es the cost is less than in Western Australia and Victoria :—

	Cost per child in average attendance.
New South Wales	£4 3 7½
Victoria	4 4 10¾
Queensland	3 11 6¾
South Australia	3 7 10¾
Western Australia	4 13 4¾
Tasmania	2 17 6½
New Zealand	3 11 1¾

is satisfactory to note that the average cost is lower than in oria, especially when it is borne in mind that the smaller extent e territory of the latter colony, and the greater travelling facilities d by a railway system proportionately much larger, must necessarily e the cost of education. In South Australia settlement is confined tain districts in which the population is more compact, whilst the of the territory of New South Wales, if the extreme west be ted, may be regarded as everywhere settled—at least, to such an t as to necessitate the extension of the public school system ghout the greater part of the colony. But the spread of public instructi considered so pre-eminently important an object tha Legisla as at all times expressed its readiness to make sacrific o spare no expense to render efficacious the syste nation tion which it adopted in 1880.

The ng table shows the gross expenditure by the Stat primary education during the ten years ended 1896, and the an amount per head of population:—

Year.	Total Amount.	Per head of population.		Year.	Total Amount.	Per he of populat	
	£	s.			£	s.	d
1887	624,983	12	[illegible]	1892	768,395	13	0
1888	597,102	11	6	1893	715,219	11	10
1889	635,509	11	11	1894	661,055	10	8
1890	704,260	12	9	1895	701,827	11	1
1891	769,565	13	5	1896	651,307	10	1

A division of this expenditure under the two heads of "Sc Premises" and "Maintenance and A lministration" is shown belo the deduction of the school fees rec ved gives the net cost to the S during each of the ten years in ques ion:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Gross enrolment of distinct Pupils.	Expenditure on school premises.	Expenditure on maintenance of Schools, including Administration, &c.	Total Expenditure.	School Fees.	Net S Exp ditu
			£	£	£	£	£
1887	2,236	184,060	119,957	505,026	624,983	63,896	561,
1888	2,271	186,692	84,575	512,527	597,102	69,554	527,
1889	2,373	191,215	109,576	525,933	635,509	72,318	563,
1890	2,423	195,241	150,441	553,819	704,260	71,827	632,
1891	2,457	205,673	191,374	578,191	769,565	75,913	693,
1892	2,502	210,641	157,679	610,716	768,395	77,525	690,
1893	2,520	210,277	112,855	602,364	715,219	73,268	641,
1894	2,508	206,265	73,792	587,263	661,055	70,693	590,
1895	2,563	216,396	104,397	597,430	701,827	73,320	628,
1896	2,574	221,603	56,752	594,555	651,307	74,866	576,

It will be seen that the amount directly contributed by par towards their children's education is but a small proportion of total cost. In 1896 the contributions of the paren £74,866, a sum greater by £1,546 than that received less per head in average attendance than in any year sin ception of 1895, when the amount was the same, namely, 10s. 6d. ay be seen from the following statement, showing the gross and st to the State of each child in average attendance :—

Year.	Gross Expenditure.	Amount of Fees received.	Net Cost to State.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887	5 17 6	0 12 0	5 5 6
1888	5 6 5	0 12 5	4 14 0
1889	5 10 10	0 12 7	4 18 3
1890	6 0 9	0 12 4	5 8 5
1891	6 5 7	0 12 5	5 13 2
1892	5 15 10	0 11 8	5 4 2
1893	5 11 5	0 11 5	5 0 0
1894	5 1 7	0 10 10	4 10 9
1895	5 0 3	0 10 6	4 9 9
1896	4 11 7	0 10 6	4 1 1

ring the year 1896 free education was granted to 28,420 pupils, to a percentage of 12·8 of the gross enrolment of distinct children. s explained by the Minister in his Annual Report that debts to nount of £2,489 were cancelled during the year.

accordance with a design long contemplated, savings' banks were d during 1887 in connection with the public schools of the colony. e close of 1896 there were 639 banks in operation, as compared 532 at the close of 1895. The deposits for the year amounted to 67, and the sum withdrawn was £11,106. The total amount to edit of the school banks on the 31st December, 1896, was £6,671, mpared with £6,310 at the end of 1895, and £6,049 at the f 1894. The object aimed at in establishing these banks is to ate practically the principles of economy while yet the minds of ildren are susceptible of deep impressions. A systematic training is purpose is a thing to be desired in every public school, in order gender habits of thrift amongst the children, to indoctrinate them the uses and effects of money that are ulterior to immediate ications, and to make them recognize and calculate upon poverty egradation as the natural results of waste and improvidence.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

e attendance at private schools greatly increased after the with- al of aid from the denominational schools which had been under the rol of the Education Department. Many of these establishments ceased to e t immediately on the withdrawal of State aid, and children by om they had been attended were transferred for the part to th inary public schools of the colony. Some of the scho however, [illegible] still maintained, chiefly those connected with the Ro Catholic rch, and thenceforth appear in the returns as pri schools.

Below will be found a statement showing the number of pri schools in the colony during each of the ten years 1887 to 189 the teaching staff and number of scholars enrolled :—

Year.	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Year.	Schools.	Teachers.	Schol
1887	689	1,873	[illegible]	1892	719	2,717	45,7
1888	679	1,854	[illegible]	1893	782	2,778	45,
1889	700	1,884	[illegible]	1894	863	2,966	51,
1890	697	2,393	[illegible]	1895	884	2,945	51,
1891	704	2,601	[illegible]	1896	893	3,087	53,

The 893 schools open during 1896 may be divided into the follow classes :—

Classification.	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.
Undenominational	549	1,305	13,773
Roman Catholic	293	1,527	36,552
Church of England	44	185	3,099
Presbyterian	4	41	248
Wesleyan	2	28	256
Lutheran	1	1	39
Total	893	3,087	53,967

Not a few of the schools returned as undenominational are religi schools, though no definite form of religious opinions is inculcated there Of distinctly religious schools, those of the Roman Catholic Church co prise the great majority, numbering 85·2 per cent. of profess denominational schools, and including 90·9 per cent. of the schol educated therein. On the withdrawal of State assistance from den national schools in 1882, there were in operation under the Departm of Education, 75 Roman Catholic Schools, attended by 16,595 p while there were also some unassisted schools connected with this C of which statistics were not available. In 1887 the number of had increased to 238, with an enrolment of 26,992 pupi 1896 the number had grown to 293, with an enrolment of iven below shows that during the last ten years the record is one tinuous progress :—

Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars on Roll.			Average Attendance.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
238	897	12,518	14,474	26,992	10,158	12,108	22,266
247	916	12,535	14,637	27,172	10,010	11,799	21,809
267	996	13,674	14,872	28,546	10,785	11,977	22,762
244	1,112	13,021	15,531	28,552	10,206	12,225	22,431
250	1,242	13,837	16,854	30,691	10,547	13,241	23,788
243	1,268	13,973	17,244	31,217	10,820	13,292	24,112
259	1,359	14,439	16,860	31,299	10,911	12,838	23,749
285	1,453	16,044	19,106	35,150	12,352	14,813	27,165
288	1,409	15,999	19,251	35,250	12,420	15,033	27,453
293	1,527	16,603	19,949	36,552	12,967	16,004	28,971

Church of England is the only other religious body maintaining iderable number of schools. During 1896 the schools connected his church numbered 44, and were attended by 3,099 pupils. At d of 1882 there were in existence 42 Church of England Schools, an enrolment of 11,927 children. The following table gives ılars of these schools during the past ten years :—

Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars on Roll.			Average Attendance.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
73	167	1,815	1,514	3,329	1,588	1,258	2,846
66	154	1,548	1,552	3,100	1,272	1,242	2,514
47	115	1,353	1,302	2,655	1,065	999	2,064
64	209	1,844	1,763	3,607	1,449	1,410	2,859
47	185	1,917	1,417	3,334	1,475	1,037	2,512
48	188	1,749	1,472	3,221	1,388	1,125	2,513
47	178	1,504	1,334	2,838	1,204	932	2,136
62	246	1,852	1,623	3,475	1,445	1,237	2,682
50	204	1,614	1,421	3,035	1,299	1,084	2,383
44	185	1,581	1,518	3,099	1,025	1,151	2,176

HIGHER EDUCATION.

as already been mentioned that the State has made provision for education by the establishment of High Schools in the metropolis e principal centres of population. The curriculum of these schools such a character as to enable students to complete the course of tion the basis of which they acquired in the Public Schools, and, so wish, to prepare themselves for the University examinations. sion to these schools is by examination only. There were at the of the year 1896 two High Schools for boys and three for girls. ross enrolment for that year was 260 boys and 317 girls, making l of 577 pupils, as against 603 for 1895. The average daily ance in 1896 was 392 as against 430 for the preceding year. g the last three years there has been a decrease of 29·2 per cent.

in the enrolment at the State High Schools, and of 31 per cent. in the average attendance. There is no doubt that the action taken in 1894 in raising the quarterly fee from two to three guineas contributed to some extent towards this reduction. During 1896, 84 pupils from the High Schools passed the junior, 13 the senior, and 53 the matriculation examinations at the University, 24 of the matriculants qualifying at the junior, and 6 at the senior examinations.

Superior Public Schools, in which the subjects taught embrace, in addition to the ordinary course prescribed for Public Schools, such other subjects as will enable the students to compete at the senior and junior public examinations, are also established. There were 100 of these schools in existence at the end of 1896, with an enrolment of 70,144 pupils. It is important to recollect that these figures do not show the number of children receiving higher education. In the course of the year, 4 pupils at Superior schools passed the senior, and 298 the junior examinations. In addition to these, 57 junior passes were obtained by Public Schools not classed as Superior.

A system of scholarships and bursaries for boys and girls at State schools has been brought into operation. Twenty of each—ten for each sex—are available for education at State High, or Grammar Schools; and six bursaries for boys and four for girls are tenable at the University. The former are awarded half-yearly, and the latter at the March matriculation examinations, to the most proficient pupils, in cases where the parents are unable to defray the expense of the pupil's education. Nine candidates from the High Schools—5 boys and 4 girls—and one pupil—a boy—of Fort-street Model School were successful in obtaining bursaries at the University matriculation in 1896. For other State scholarships and bursaries 100 candidates were successful; 25 boys and 32 girls obtained scholarships for High Schools and Superior Schools; 23 boys and 18 girls obtained bursaries for High and Superior Schools; and 2 boys obtained bursaries for the Sydney Grammar School.

In addition to the various classes of Public Schools already mentioned, there exist several institutions of an educational character which receive an annual subsidy from the Government. The most important of these is the Sydney Grammar School, which is one of the principal schools of the colony. In 1896 the mean quarterly enrolment was 378, and the average attendance 362. This school receives an annual endowment from the State of £1,500. In 1896 the other revenue, derived from school fees and other sources, amounted to £6,663.

THE UNIVERSITY.

In the year 1849 Mr. Wentworth presented a petition to the mixed Legislative Council from certain shareholders of a proprietary school, known as Sydney College, praying for the appointment of a select committee of the House "to consider the best means of carrying on the institution as to afford the youth of the colony the means of obtaining instruct in the higher branches of literature and science." The commit

inted, but it received somewhat different instructions, being
o "consider and report how best to institute a university for
otion of literature and science, to be endowed at the public
The committee, after a few weeks' deliberation, brought up its
ommending the establishment of a university with a permanent
t of £5,000 per annum out of the general revenue, and a bill
ht in by Mr. Wentworth in accordance with the report. The
as shortly afterwards prorogued, and the measure consequently
that session. In 1850 the bill, which was based mainly on
r of University College, London, was reintroduced by Mr.
h, and, after some discussion and a few amendments, was
ceiving the Royal assent on the 1st October of that year.
lowment was given for "defraying the stipends of teachers in
science, and art," and for administration purposes, there
provision made for teaching any other branch. Power was,
given to examine and to grant degrees after examination in
edicine as well as in arts. The University was to be strictly
national, and the Act expressly prohibited any religious test
ion to studentship or to any office, or for participation in any
antages or privileges. Residence was not contemplated other-
in affiliated colleges, but authority was given to license tutors
rs of boarding-houses with whom students of the University
.

te of sixteen Fellows was constituted by the original Act to
e University, and it was empowered to elect from among
rs its own Provost and Vice-Provost, which titles were later
d to those of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The Fellows
the first instance, nominated by the Crown, but were to be
s vacancies arose, by the Fellows themselves until there should
aduates holding the degree of Master in Arts or of Doctor
Medicine. The first Senate commenced its labours at the
e year 1850, with Mr. Edward Hamilton, M.A., as Provost,
Charles Nicholson, M.D., as Vice-Provost. It shortly estab-
e chairs in Classics, Mathematics, and Chemistry and Experi-
hysics, and sent to England for competent professors to fill
d on the 11th October, 1852, the University was opened with
ng ceremony, in presence of the Governor and principal officers,
r the presidency of Sir Charles Nicholson, and twenty-four
ted students were admitted to membership.

8 a royal charter was granted, which declares that "the de-
his University in arts, law, and medicine shall be recognized as
l distinctions of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence,
eration in the United Kingdom as fully as if the said degrees
granted in any university of the United Kingdom."

he passing of the original Act various amendments have been
which the principal are as follow:—By an Act passed in 1857,
o had taken the degree of B.A. or M.A. received certain

privileges in respect of admission to the Bar or to the Roll of Solicitors. In 1861 it was directed that, in addition to the ordinary sixteen Fellows, there should be not fewer than three nor more than six *ex-officio* members of the Senate who should be Professors in such branches of learning as the Senate should by any by-law select; and such Professors and other Public Teachers and examiners and every superior officer declared to be such by the by-laws should be a member of the University, with the same rights and privileges in respect to the election of new Fellows as were enjoyed by persons holding the degrees of M.A., LL.D., and M.D. In 1881 *Ad eundem* degrees, with equal privileges, were authorised to be conferred; and Bachelors of Arts of three years standing were empowered to vote at new elections of Fellows. In 1884 the Senate's powers as regards teaching and degrees were extended by enabling it to give instruction and grant degrees or certificates in all branches of knowledge with the exception of Theology or Divinity, subject to a proviso that no student should be compelled to attend lectures or to pass examinations in Ethics, Metaphysics, or Modern History; and by the same Act it was directed, in accordance with a previous by-law of the Senate, that the benefits and advantages of the University should extend in all respects to women equally with men.

The number of persons entitled to vote at the elections of new Fellows reached 100 in 1872, whereupon the Senate passed by-laws in respect of such elections, and styled the electoral body "Convocation." This body, including the additions made by the several amending Acts, and the heads of affiliated colleges, who had been declared to be superior officers of the University under the Act of 1861, now numbers upwards of 800.

The public endowment of the University stood at £5,000 per annum until 1880, when £1,000 was added for assistant lectureships; but in 1877 a bequest of the value of £6,000, producing about £300 a year, was made by Mrs. Hovell, widow of the explorer of that name, for instruction in Geology and Physical Geography, and this sum, together with fees, enabled the Senate to divide the Chair of Chemistry and Experimental Physics into two, to the first of which Geology and Physical Geography were attached. In 1882 a further sum of £5,000 was voted to enable the Senate to establish Schools of Medicine and Engineering, and to give some further help to the original Department of Arts. Medical and Engineering Professors and Lecturers, a Professor of Natural History, and some small lectureships in Arts were created; but this sum was soon found inadequate for the intended purposes, and was increased to £7,900, inclusive of the £1,000 granted in 1880. Allowances were also made for apparatus, and a sum of £2,000 per annum granted for evening classes in Arts. In 1893 the Government endowment amounted to £13,000, and the special grants to £5,6[illegible]. Since that year the State aid has been largely reduced, and in 1896 the endowment was £9,000, while the special grants totalled £2,4[illegible]. Principally out of the endowment for Evening Classes, a system

Extension Lectures to non-matriculants was commenced in 1882, first in the metropolis, and afterwards extending to the country districts, and even to the neighbouring colony of Queensland. It is not improbable that as time goes on these lectures will become a very prominent feature in the work of the University.

In 1855 the present site was granted by Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy, by Royal authority, for the erection of suitable buildings, and also to provide land for the prospective erection of four denominational Colleges. It comprised about 126 acres, formerly known as Grose Farm, to which a further grant of 9 acres was afterwards added for the enlargement of the domain or park. Before this grant was made the work of the University had been carried on in the old Sydney College, which, together with its library and even an endowment for a Scholarship bequeathed by Mr. Solomon Levy, was purchased by the Government for the University, and a grant of £50,000 was made by Parliament in 1853 as a building fund. As early as 1854 an Act was passed to aid and partly endow four colleges within the University. A contribution of not less than £10,000, and not more than £20,000, was to be made from the general revenue for building funds, provided that an equal sum was subscribed by private individuals, and £500 a year was to be paid annually by the Government towards the stipend of the Principal of each College. Just before this, steps had been taken to establish the St. Paul's Church of England College; the St. John's Roman Catholic College followed in 1857, and the Presbyterian College of St. Andrew in 1867. In 1896 the number of students in St. Paul's College was 18; in St. John's, 15; and in St. Andrew's, 26. The Wesleyan body, for whom an equal area had been set apart, declined to accept it, and in 1873 some 12 acres of the land originally intended for a site for their college were resumed by the Crown and dedicated to the Prince Alfred Hospital; and provision was made for the establishment by the University of a Medical School in connection with the Hospital, and for joint control by the University Senate and the Hospital Board in respect to all appointments to the medical and surgical staff of the Hospital. But while the regulations under which students have access to the Hospital are framed by the Hospital Board, with the Senate alone rests the appointment of Professors and Lecturers in the Medical School.

The Women's College—a college within the University of Sydney—was opened in March, 1892. It was established for the purpose of affording residence and domestic supervision to women students of the University, with efficient tutorial assistance in their preparation for the University lectures and examinations. In order that full effect might be given to a principle affirmed in the "University Extension Act of 1884," it was necessary that a college for women should be brought into existence, it having been enacted in this measure that "the benefits and advantages of the University and the provisions of the Acts relating thereto shall be deemed to extend in all respects to women equally with

men." The college is strictly undenominational—the Act of Incorpora
providing that no religious catechism or formulary which is distincti
any particular denomination shall be taught, and that no attempt sha
made to attach students to any particular denomination. When
college was opened in a house at Glebe Point, leased until the perma
buildings were completed, the students numbered four. The pe
buildings were opened in the early part of 1894, and at the close of
year there were eight students, while in 1896 there were 12. T
is, however, accommodation for twenty-six resident students.
Government granted £5,000 towards the erection of buildings, but a
no endowment to the college, though it pays the salary of the Prin

Many donations have been made to the University for the us
reward of students. Among the first were gifts of £1,000 each
Mr. Thomas Barker and Sir Edward Deas-Thomson, representi
lands which are now of twice that value. Many others followe
about £42,000 has been presented up to the present date, exclus
prizes which have been exhausted by award, and irrespecti
increases in value. About £10,000 of this is still in suspen
account of intervening life estates to the widows of testators. B
the above, a sum of £30,000 was left by the late Mr. Thomas Fish
a library, and £6,000 was given by the late Sir William M
for a Curatorship of the Natural History Museum, presented by h
the University, and for which the Government have erected a su
building. There have also been bequests of property other than m
to the estimated value of £51,000 up to the present time.

Above all, the late Mr. John Henry Challis left his residuary
to the University, subject to certain annuities. In December, 189
trustees handed over to the University the major part of the Aust
portion of the estate, consisting of £199,362 in investments and £
cash balance. Under this bequest the Senate have created new Ch
Law, Modern Literature, History, Logic and Mental Philosophy, Ana
Engineering, and Biology, to which they have given the testator's
The Hovell and Challis bequests constituted, until the end of
the only resources of the University for actual education other tha
public endowments. During 1895 Mr. P. N. Russell, of L
(formerly of Sydney), devoted £50,000 to the purpose of endow
School of Engineering.

The teaching-staff, now that all the Challis Chairs are filled, cons
fourteen Professors, twenty-seven Lecturers, and seven Demonst
The subjects over which Professors preside are Greek, Latin, Mat
tics, Chemistry, Physics, Geology and Physical Geography, Physi
Anatomy, Engineering, Modern Literature, Logic and Mental Philo
Biology, Law, and History. The Lecturers deal with Geolog
Physical Geography, Metallurgy, Latin, Modern Literature, Mathe
Architecture, Surveying, Mining, Mechanical Engineering and Dra
Principles and Practice of Medicine, Principles and Practice of Su
Midwifery, Diseases of Women, Materia Medica and Therap

athology, Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health, Clinical Medi-ne, Clinical Surgery, Psychological Medicine, Ophthalmic Medicine and urgery, Law of Real Property and Equity, Law of Procedure (including vidence), Law of Wrongs, Civil and Criminal and Law of Obligations. here are also Tutors in Medicine and Surgery, and a Tutor to the female tudents. The Demonstrators are appointed in Chemistry, Physiology, natomy, Biology, Geology and Physical Geography, and Physics.

From the foundation of the University to the end of 1896, 1,471 degrees f various kinds have been conferred, the highest number bestowed any one year being 123 in 1894. The degrees conferred include 256 .A., 851 B.A., 23 LL.D., 57 LL.B., 37 M.D., 108 M.B., 75 Masters of urgery, 24 B. Sc., 3 Masters of Engineering, and 37 Bachelors of ngineering. During 1896 the degrees conferred (including *ad eundem*) ere M.A. 6, B.A. 58, LL.B. 7, M.D. 2, M.B. 17, Ch.M. 11, B.Sc. 1, M.E. , B.E. 5. The number of matriculated students increased from 34 in 876 to 438 in 1896.

Examinations, corresponding to the middle-class examinations of the nglish Universities, are held every year. These examinations have roved highly popular, attracting no less than 2,305 candidates in 1892, f whom 173 were seniors, and 2,132 juniors. Since that year, however, he number of candidates has greatly fallen off; and now that the ublic Service Board have instituted competitive examinations for ppointments to the public service, it is expected that the candidates resenting themselves for examination will be still further reduced.

Year.	Students attending Lectures.	Matriculated students.	Attending extension Lectures.	Public Examinations.			
				Number of Seniors.		Number of Juniors.	
				Examined.	Passed.	Examined.	Passed.
1876	58	34	...	53	40	356	212
1877	61	23	...	63	38	303	135
1878	62	24	...	58	41	364	243
1879	83	58	...	76	64	333	247
1880	76	64	...	66	54	381	209
1881	81	80	...	48	36	392	231
1882	97	101	...	57	43	398	240
1883	128	85	...	57	36	473	299
1884	203	142	...	65	48	563	379
1885	206	115	...	84	73	645	440
1886	203	122	137	107	83	858	548
1887	215	132	329	125	87	834	562
1888	250	130	403	141	110	834	538
1889	275	210	327	115	90	1,085	706
1890	409	301	447	129	101	1,172	798
1891	532	478	298	143	110	1,729	1,191
1892	598	540	528	173	134	2,132	1,467
1893	586	539	514	176	127	1,853	921
1894	592	522	934	137	103	1,494	824
1895	506	487	727	142	112	1,398	847
1896	454	438	396	142	108	1,481	965

Ex ns for the admission of articled clerks were institu
1877, pliance with a rule of the Supreme Court, and in
there successful candidates.
E iven a statement showing the amount derived
Uni m each of the principal sources of revenue from
wit expenditure during each year :—

Year.	Receipts.					Exp
	Government aid.		Lecture fees.	Other sources.	Total.	
	Endowment.	Grants for apparatus or				
	£	£	£	£	£	
1876	5,000	..	403	100	5,503	5
1877	5,000	....	334	100	5,434	5
1878	5,000	1,168	324	100	6,592	7
1879	5,000	114	476	100	5,690	5
1880	5,000	1,500	457	100	7,057	6
1881	5,000	1,000	706	100	6,806	6
1882	10,000	2,964	,080	100	14,144	10
1883	12,000	2,343	,266	120	15,729	13
1884	12,000	3,500	2,207	170	17,877	16
1885	12,000	4,500	2,479	385	19,364	20
1886	12,000	5,500	2,600	323	20,423	20
1887	12,000	4,918	2,819	308	20,045	20
1888	12,000	7,099	3,022	385	22,506	21
1889	12,000	6,800	5,667	807	25,274	28
1890	13,900	4,734	5,385	293	24,312	26
1891	13,900	4,400	7,262	11,694	37,256	36,
1892	13,900	4,200	7,647	11,843	37,590	40,
1893	13,000	5,695	7,912	11,921	38,528	39,
1894	11,000	2,200	7,700	12,590	33,490	33,
1895	9,500	2,000	8,445	11,462	31,407	31,
1896	9,000	2,400	8,171	11,923	31,494	31,

An extensive addition to the University's magnificent buildings
been made for the use of the School of Medicine. It pro
complete accommodation for students desiring to follow

ine and surgery; and the Prince Alfred Hospital, erected, as ated, on the University grant, affords them the necessary means During the year 1896 there were 136 undergraduates, of were ladies, in the Medical School—a very fair number con that this school was not established until 1883, and then com with only four students. A laboratory for the Department of has also been erected, and is replete with every means of illus he teaching of physical science. In March, 1890, a Department istry and its adjuncts were opened. The accommodation pro cludes lecture halls and four laboratories, besides other facilities. the laboratories is used in connection with the School of Mines, as opened early in 1895 for the purpose of imparting instruction gy (including physical geography and palæontology), mineralogy, tical mining work. The buildings for the School of Mines cost of £4,000, and more than £1,500 was expended on fittings. there were 11 students in attendance at this school.

DENOMINATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

e principal religious bodies provide high schools and colleges tudents may be educated according to the precepts of their beliefs, and prepared to compete for University honours or the professions which they may adopt. Evidence of the progress ior denominational education in the colony may be seen in the ent college buildings which surround the city, among which cited Newington College, the colleges of the Marist Brothers Jesuit Fathers at Hunter's Hill and Riverview, the old ed King's School at Parramatta, the North Sydney Church of Grammar School, the Scots' College, the Presbyterian Ladies' at Croydon, and a host of other first-class establishments erected e patronage of the various religious bodies.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

attention was so strongly directed in the years which followed t world exhibition of 1851 to the necessity of providing the classes, and the people generally, with the means of obtaining fic knowledge of the various handicrafts, that technical schools up in various parts of England, some being under the direct e of the State, while others were founded by the wealthy trade or guilds of the great English cities. The excellent results g the establishment of these schools could not fail to attract a in the colonies, where a sound and practical knowledge of the arts is of paramount necessity. The foundation of the New Vales Technical School was due in great measure to the efforts of ntlemen connected with the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts,

and as far back as 1873 it was decided to establish a Technical
affiliated to that institution, with the object of improving the sc
knowledge of Australian artisans. In the year 1878 a sum of
was granted by Parliament towards the organization of a Te
College, and for five years the work of the institution was carried
connection with the School of Arts. In 1883, however, a boa
appointed by the Government to take over its management,
Technical College became thenceforth a State institution. Towa
end of 1889 the Board was dissolved, and the Technical Colleg
under the direct control of the Minister of Public Instruction
institution is now well established, and its work is already bei
and appreciated, whilst the future gives every promise of still
usefulness. The College is housed in a fine building specially
by the Government at Ultimo, Sydney, and is provided with wor
and all necessary tools and apparatus.

The course of instruction, under the present constitution of t
lege, comprises classes in agriculture, art, architecture, chemistry,
and mineralogy, mechanical engineering, physics, sanitary engin
electrical engineering, lithography and photo-lithography, mine
ing, metalliferous mining, and wool sorting and other training
nection with sheep and wool; and these classes are subdivided
be warranted by circumstances.

The College is open to both male and female students, and i
there were 200 classes in operation, of which 83 were in Sydn
suburbs, 97 in various country towns, and 20 in connection with
schools. The teaching staff consisted of 13 lecturers in charge of
ments, 5 resident masters in charge of branch schools, 36 te
17 assistant teachers, and 13 teachers remunerated by fees only.
enrolment of students amounted to 7,119 in all, 3,880 of whom
in Sydney and suburbs, and 2,285 in the country, while 954 repre
the enrolment of scholars from public schools. The number of indi
students was 5,396, being a decrease of 62 as compared with the
for 1895. The average weekly attendance was 3,718. At the
examinations 2,576 students presented themselves, of whom
passed—a proportion of 67·4 per cent. New Technical College bui
were opened at Newcastle in February, 1896; and a Technical C
is at present in course of construction at Bathurst.

In 1896 the State expenditure on technical education amount
£24,815. Of this amount, £3,839 was paid on account of techno
museums, and £20,976 was spent on the Technical College and
schools. Salaries (administrative) absorbed £3,807, and £12,248
paid to lecturers and teachers, and £2,634 to the mechanical
caretakers, etc. Apparatus and fittings cost £5,680, while £446
for rent. The sum of £3,611 was received as fees from pupil
addition to a Parliamentary grant of £21,204. The cost to the
per student, which in 1889 reached £6 15s. 4d., had in 1896
reduced to £3 4s. 4d.

Reformatories and Industrial Schools.

ion to the purely educational establishments, the State main
al reformatories and industrial schools. For girls there are the
School at Parramatta and the Shaftesbury Reformatory at
id; and for boys, the nautical schoolship Sobraon and the
an Reformatory. All these institutions are under the contro
ister for Public Instruction. At the Parramatta Industrial
total enrolment of girls during the year 1896 was 175, of
were under and 134 over 14 years of age. At the end of
he girls numbered 124. The cost of maintaining the school
as £2,585. At the Shaftesbury Reformatory there were 15
close of 1896.

t of a reformatory for criminal youths has been much felt for
s, and in the absence of such an institution magistrates have
convicted boys to the school-ship. In the early part of 1894
ment acquired the Brush Farm Estate, and portion of the land
y utilised, a section of the area in the municipality of Dundas
apart as a home for crippled and delicate lads who have
nates of charitable institutions, superseding a similar institu-
ydalmere, but these boys have since been transferred to
. Upon another section of the estate, coming within the
of Eastwood, the Carpenterian Reformatory was opened in
95. To this institution are sent boys who have been con-
the lower or higher Courts, and whom it is desired to keep
such persons as they would have to associate with if sent to
ddition to being subjected to proper discipline, the boys are
ning, carpentering, bootmaking, and blacksmiths' work. At
1896 there were 91 lads housed in the Reformatory, of whom
der 14 years of age. In the early part of 1897, the Minister
Instruction, in consequence of a lack of accommodation at
tion, liberated 39 boys.

Sobraon 554 boys were dealt with during the year 1896.
sions during the year numbered 174, and the discharges
daily average number on board during the year was
on the 31st December, 1896, there were 331 boys remaining
Up to this date there had been 3,505 boys admitted on
hom 3,174 had left. Favourable reports were received in
of the year respecting more than 93 per cent. of the apprentices
utical school-ship who still remained under its supervision,
able to be brought back in case of misconduct. The manage-
e institution is excellent. Its net cost to the State during
£8,583. The results obtained in the above-mentioned
nts have been of a very successful character, many children

having been reclaimed from a depraved life, or rescued from un
surroundings, and turned out, after a course of some years' tr
useful members of society.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, ETC.

In a young country such as New South Wales, where most
people are engaged in the development of its material resourc
existence of a leisured class, or one devoted to the pursuit of sci
hardly to be looked for. Nevertheless it is satisfactory to find th
higher aims of science are far from being neglected. As far back
year 1821, a scientific society under the title of the Philosophical S
of Australasia was founded in Sydney, and after experiencing
vicissitudes of fortune was transformed in 1866 into, and afte
incorporated under the title of, the Royal Society of New South
The society is now in a flourishing condition, counting amon
members some of the most eminent men in the colony. Its
are the advancement of science in Australia, and the encouragem
original research in all subjects of scientific, artistic, and philos
interest, which may further the development of the resources o
tralia, draw attention to its productions, or illustrate its n
history. The proceedings include papers of the greatest inter
important scientific questions, especially those whose solution
Australian interest.

The study of the botany and natural history of Australia has att
many enthusiastic students, and the Linnæan Society of New
Wales was established for the special purpose of furtherin
advancement of these particular sciences. The society is hou
a commodious building at Elizabeth Bay, one of the most be
spots near the city, and possesses a library and museum.
liberally endowed by Sir William Macleay, who, not content with
one of its most munificent supporters was also an indefatigable
in the field of science. The society's proceedings are published at r
intervals, and contain many valuable papers, together with ex
illustrations of objects of natural history.

Among the other scientific societies are the New South Wales Z
cal Society, inaugurated in 1879; a branch of the British M
Association, founded in 1881; a branch of the British Astron
Association, whose first meeting was held in 1895; and a branch
Anthropological Society of Australasia. The Australasian Asso
for the Advancement of Science, and the Royal Geographical Soc
Australia, also have transactions in New South Wales as well as
other colonies.

The Sydney Observatory is numbered among the institution
scientific and educational character which the colony liberally sup
Situated in a commanding position, it is admirably fitted fo
purpose it is intended to serve. The present building was erec

6 at the instance of Sir William Denison, then Governor of the
ny, who took a great interest in scientific pursuits. The Government
ronomer has under him a complete staff of assistants, and during the
r 1895-6 a sum of £4,021 was expended in connection with the insti-
ion. Meteorological observations have received special attention, as
its such an important subject in a country whose prosperity depends so
ch upon climate. When the present Astronomer took office in 1870,
re were in the colony only six stations, and observations on the
nate, rainfall, and other meteorological phenomena were necessarily
y limited in character. At the end of 1896 the number of stations
l been increased to 1,507. Rain gauges have also been established
most of the sheep and cattle stations of the interior, with a result
ich is highly satisfactory. The light thrown on the true characteristics
the climate, especially of that part of the colony remote from the
coast, has tended to modify the notion long current as to its unfit-
s for agricultural as well as pastoral settlement.

Public Libraries.

The Public Library of New South Wales was established, under the
ignation of the Free Public Library, on the 1st October, 1869,
en the building and books of the Australian Subscription Library
re purchased by the Government. The books thus acquired formed
nucleus of the present library. The number of volumes originally
rchased was about 16,000, and on the 31st December, 1896, they had
en increased to 115,908, including those in the lending branch or lent
country libraries. The lending branch was established in 1877 to
et a growing public want, and under the present system any person
y, on the recommendation of a clergyman, magistrate, or other
ponsible person, obtain under certain simple regulations the loan
any of the works on the shelves, free of charge. The scope of this
titution was further extended by the introduction of a system by
ich country libraries and Mechanics' Institutes may obtain on loan
ks of a select kind, which in many instances would be too expensive
them to purchase on account of the slender funds at their disposal.
der this system, boxes are made up containing from 60 to 100 books,
l forwarded to the country libraries on application, to be returned or
hanged within four months. This system was initiated in August,
3, and has been carried on successfully ever since. In the course of
year 1896, 14,208 volumes were forwarded to 107 institutions, some
which were at considerable distances from the metropolis. All the
rges in connection with the despatch and return of the books are
rayed by the State, and the system in vogue in New South Wales
he most liberal of its kind in existence.

The reference department of the Public Library of New South Wales
ntains 84,484 volumes, and the lending branch 25,293, while there are
6,131 volumes for country libraries to be lent under the above-

mentione ystem, the total number of books and pamphl property this institution, being 115,908 classified as unde

Synopsis of Classification.	Reference Department.	Lending Branch.	For Country Libraries.
	No.	No.	No.
Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	10,869	4,168	1,369
History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology....	7,161	3,560	1,174
Biography and Correspondence	5,174	4,086	1,441
Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels, etc. ..	6,965	3,028	1,136
Periodical and Serial Literature	24,315	....	47
Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	5,538	1,172	199
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	5,183	1,502	164
Poetry and the Drama......................	2,888	940	127
General Literature, Philology, and Collected ks *	6,300	6,237	472
Works of Reference	4,876	....	2
Duplicates	5,215	....	....
Total.......	84,484	25,293	6,131

* Including 2,983 volumes of Fiction.

The popularity of the Public Library of New South Wales is proved by the number of persons availing themselves of the pr which it affords. The increase has been very regular, as will be the following statement showing the number of visits to the rising from 59,786 in 1870 to 255,058 in 1896, 80,928 of whic visits to the lending branch :—

1870	59,786	1883	15
1871	60,165	1884 (eleven months)	16
1872	48,817	1885	16
1873	76,659	1886	16
1874 (eleven months).........	57,962	1887	13
1875	66,90[illegible]	1888	14
1876	72,724	1889	13
1877 (Lending Branch first opened)	124,688	1890	15
1878	117,047	1891	17
1879 (Exhibition open)......	152,036	1892	19
1880	134,462	1893	[illegible]
1881	136,272	1894	[illegible]
1882 (eleven months)	133,731	1895	[illegible]
		1896	

* Reference Library closed for three months on account of re

sides the 255,058 visits recorded for 1896, no less than 161,124 were to the newspaper room. Although the lending branch contains 5,293 volumes, the total number of times when books were issued g the year was not less than 94,637, and the number of persons ing themselves of the privilege of borrowing was 6,061, so that on an ge each book was taken nearly four times, and each person to whom mit was granted used nearly sixteen volumes during the year. As , works of fiction were extensively read, each of the 2,983 novels e branch having been issued nine times during the year. The er of volumes of each class taken out was as follows :—

Synopsis of Classification.	No. of volumes used.
al Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	10,773
ry, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	9,834
aphy and Correspondence	8,486
aphy, Topography, Voyages and Travels, etc.	14,607
rudence, Political Economy, Social Science, etc.	1,965
ogy, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	3,415
y and the Drama	2,785
al Literature, Philology, and Collected Works	16,007
Fiction	26,765
Total	94,637

ring 1886 and 1887 considerable extensions were made to the ises of the Public Library of New South Wales, which had become too small for the accommodation of the public, and the proper ng of the books. It was at length decided to pull down the old ing in Macquarie-street, and a contract was made about the middle 7 for rebuilding a large portion of the Library at a cost of £10,455. new building was opened to the public in April, 1890; and the c Library of New South Wales is now one of the most convenient stralia.

e institution forms a separate department, under the control of the ter of Public Instruction. Its cost to the State during 1896 s follows :—

	£
Books, Periodicals, and Binding	1,904
Salaries	4,294
Miscellaneous—Cleaning, Freight, Repairs, &c.	772
Total	6,970

sides the Public Library, which is situated in Sydney, there are smaller ries established in the principal population centres throughout the y. These libraries may be broadly classed under two heads—Schools ts, receiving an annual subvention in proportion to the amount of tary support accorded by the public; and Free Libraries, established in connection with municipalities. Those of the former class are far the more numerous. Under the provisions of the Municipalities Act of 1867 any municipality may establish and maintain a Free Library, and when such is done the Council of the Municipality is entitled, for the purchase of books, to the sum of £200 if the library is available for the use of a population of 1,000, or to £100 where the population to whom the library would be accessible reaches 300 persons. The number of volumes in the various public libraries, excluding the Public Library of New South Wales, is estimated at about 265,000.

NATIONAL ART GALLERY.

The National Art Gallery was first instituted in 1871 in connection with the New South Wales Academy of Art. It was reopened as the National Art Gallery in 1880, and is now situated in the Outer Domain, in a convenient and well-lighted building, which has received recent additions, but is yet incomplete. The Gallery contains an excellent collection of paintings and statuary, comprising some of the most famous works of the best modern artists of the old world, and includes several very valuable gifts from private persons. Like the other national institutions of New South Wales, the Gallery is open on Sundays as well as week-days, and on Sundays and public holidays the attendance is especially numerous. During 1896 the Gallery was visited by 215,602 persons, the average Sunday attendance being 1,581, and on week-days, 427. In 1894 a system of loan exchanges between the Art Galleries of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide was introduced. By this arrangement pictures are sent from Sydney to Melbourne and Adelaide, and others are received from the Art Galleries in those cities in exchange. That the interests of art have benefited under this system is unquestionable. Another excellent scheme was initiated in July, 1895, by which collections of pictures belonging to the Art Gallery and the Art Society are made up and sent to the principal country towns for temporary exhibition. Up to the end of 1896 the total expenditure on the National Art Gallery was £105,822, of which the sum of £83,408 had been expended on works of art. The disbursements during 1896 were:—

	£
For works of art	964
For maintenance, including freight, frames, repairs, and insurance	1,061
For salaries	1,112
Total cost to the State	3,137

MUSEUMS.

The Australian Museum, the oldest institution of the kind in Australia, occupies a conspicuous site in the centre of Sydney, facing one of the principal parks. The collections contain carefully-selected specimens of the principal objects of natural history found in such establishments, o a most complete collection of zoological specimens of distinctly lian character. The popularity of the institution is evinced by reasing number of persons by whom it is visited. The Museum to the public every day except Monday, and on Sundays the are very numerous. The number of visitors during 1896 was 5, the daily average being 663 on Sundays, and 316 on other The expenses in connection with the institution amounted to , of which £432 was expended on account of purchase, collecnd carriage of specimens, and purchase of books.

Technological Museum, formerly situated in the Outer Domain, is used in a fine building at Ultimo. This museum was instituted close of 1879 on the initiative of the Trustees of the Australian m; but the whole collection of some 9,000 specimens was totally 1882 by the Garden Palace fire. Strenuous efforts were at once o replace the lost collection, and in December, 1883, the museum ain opened to the public, and now contains interesting and e series of specimens illustrating the various stages of many ctures, and an excellent collection of natural products. The rity of the institution may be gathered from the fact that 99,952 visited it during 1896.

e are branch Technological Museums at Goulburn, Bathurst, West nd, and Newcastle, which were visited by 126,058 persons during decrease of 4,625 from the attendance of the previous year. m of £3,839 was expended on the various institutions of this (including the one in Sydney) during 1896.

ected with the Department of Mines and Agriculture is a and Geological Museum, housed in an iron building in the Domain. The museum is open to the public on week-days, ion being free.

Albury a Free and Industrial Museum has been established. It n educational character, and is supported by voluntary contri-. The State grants the use of a building formerly used for school purposes.

RELIGION.

e eyes of the State all religions are equal in New South Wales, ing the early days of the colony such was not the case. New Wales was originally a Crown Colony, and the Church establishs it existed in England was naturally transplanted to these Ecclesiastical monopoly nevertheless only continued for a short nd the countenance and support of the State were eventually ed, during the governorship of Sir Richard Bourke, to the principal s bodies which then existed—the Anglicans, Roman Catholics, terians, and Wesleyan Methodists. To the clergy of each of these nations the Government granted what has usually been denomi-State aid, which continued long after the old political system had passed away and had been replaced by Responsible Government. I 1862, however, an Act was passed limiting future payments to the clerg then actually in receipt of State aid. In the year following the passin of this Act the claims on the Government amounted to £32,372, th distributed :—

Church of England	£17,967	Presbyterian	£2,873
Roman Catholic Church...	8,748	Wesleyan Methodist	2,784

Year by year the sum payable has been lessening, owing chiefly to th deaths of clergymen in receipt of State aid, so that during the yea ended June, 1897, the payment by the State was £6,727, distributed a follows :—

Church of England	£3,537	Presbyterian	£552
Roman Catholic Church	1,888	Wesleyan Methodist	750

The payments to the clergy of different denominations are given fo various periods since 1863. It will be observed that in some years th amounts paid were less than in succeeding years. This anomaly is du to the temporary stoppage of the stipends of clergymen who were absen from the colony. The total payments made since 1863 amount t £545,246, of which £294,748 was paid to clergymen of the Church o England, £154,427 to Roman Catholics, £53,882 to Presbyterians, an £42,189 to Wesleyan Methodists :—

Year.	Church of England.	Roman Catholic Church.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan Methodist.	Total—All denominations.
	£	£	£	£	£
1863	17,967	8,748	2,873	2,784	32,372
1865	14,111	7,430	3,090	1,572	26,203
1870	12,386	6,583	2,180	1,573	22,722
1875	10,725	5,608	1,626	1,372	19,331
1880	7,739	3,892	1,702	1,716	15,049
1885	5,791	3,000	1,039	1,136	10,966
1890	5,556	2,600	702	900	9,758
1891	5,347	2,570	702	875	9,494
1892	4,926	2,312	702	750	8,690
1893	4,260	2,300	702	750	8,012
1894	3,521	2,058	644	687	6,910
*1895	1,920	1,023	351	438	3,732
1895-6	3,824	1,976	569	687	7,056
1896-7	3,537	1,888	552	750	6,727

* Six months.

The number of persons entitled to State aid during 1897 was 35—16 clergymen of the Church of England, 10 Roman Catholics, 4 Presbyterians, and 5 Wesleyan Methodists.

At the Census of 1891 the number of adherents to each of the denominations, with the clergy registered for the celebration of marriages, was as given below. The table also shows the average number of adherents nomination compared with the number of clergymen in active

Denomination.	Clergy.	Adherents.	Proportion of adherents to clergy.
England	333	502,980	1,510
copalians	1	95	95
holic	295	286,895	973
rch	......	253	......
ot defined)	......	16	......
n Church of New South Wales .	146	106,464	729
n Church of Eastern Australia...	6	2,154	359
byterians	4	772	193
Methodists	133	87,516	658
lethodists	29	20,354	702
odists	5	2,242	448
ion of N. S. Wales	27	12,344	457
ists	5	768	154
onal	65	24,089	371
	5	7,950	1,590
tians	9	2,336	260
hrist	5	2,042	408
rethren	......	1,036	......
	1	1,329	1,329
rmy	10	10,315	1,032
stian sects	8	2,773	476
(not defined)	......	3,787	......
	3	5,484	1,828
	......	10,110	......
	......	528	......
nfidel, etc.	......	727	......
rs	......	5,469	......
	......	1,035	......
nation	......	4,927	.. ...
	......	3,136	......
tate religion	......	11,237	......
or ill-defined	......	2,791	......
tal	1,090	1,123,954	......

he figures just given the aboriginal population, to the number
have been excluded, and in calculating the average number
nts to each clergyman the Christian Brethren have been in-
th "other Christian sects"—a heading which also comprises
onformists, 153 Christian Israelites, 16 Moravians, 370
rch, 345 Catholic Apostolic Church, 132 Calvinists, 247
548 Christadelphians, and 307 Latter-day Saints, besides 302
ho call themselves Unsectarian Christians. Taking the whole
(less aborigines), there were 1,031 persons on an average to
yman.

ly, religious statistics were collected every year. It has now
led to have only one collection half way between the Census
o that new figures will be available every five years. The

latest figures at the present time are those for 1894. In that y the number of persons attending Divine Service on Sundays avera 390,807. This number represents the attendance of adults o if school children were included the number would be about 500,(When the sparseness of the population in some parts of the cou is considered, the church attendance will appear very large, though apparently less than found in the colony of Victoria, i proportionately much greater than in England. The number of a attendants on Divine Service in 1890 was returned at 300,890; 1885 it was 263,379 ; and for 1881, 213,044 ; so that there has b a gradual increase, fairly keeping pace with the population. The rela numbers of each denomination in attendance have remained very much same for several years past. In 1881 the Church of England had largest attendance, but from 1884 the Church of Rome has taken the l

The figures showing the attendance at Divine Service on Sund for each of the principal denominations are given hereunder. Sun school children are not included. The authorities of the Salva Army return the number of attendants at their services as 52, whereas the Census returns showed 10,312 only as the number of sold enrolled. It is very probable, therefore, that a great proportion those who attend the Army services are nominally members of ot denominations :—

Denomination.	Number of distinct persons attending Divine Service.	Proportion of Denominations attending Divine Service.
		Per cent.
Church of England	93,939	17·0
Roman Catholic	97,115	30·7
Presbyterian	42,938	35·7
Wesleyan Methodist	67,675	70·2
Other Methodists	10,305	41·4
Congregationalist	12,278	46·4
Baptist	7,880	54·4
Salvation Army	*52,250	100·0
Other Denominations	6,427	8·7
Total	390,807	31·6

* **Figures of previous year.**

The Church of England is the largest religious denomination in t colony, whether judged by the number of professed adherents, t number of clergy, or the number of buildings used for Divine Servi During the year 1894 there were 639 churches belonging to th denomination, and 949 buildings and dwellings used for public worsh accommodating altogether 129,625 persons ; and the attendance of di tinct persons, counting only adults, was 93,939. The number of cler registered under Acts 19 Vic. Nos. 30 and 34, for the celebration arriages, was 331. Besides the clergy regularly ordained, there were 3 laymen licensed to perform service. The Church provides a rsonage in 194 parishes, besides 23 residences which are not church operty. The approximate number of services performed during the ar, including week-day services, was 62,076. The number of comunicants affords a special test of the progress of Church membership. he record for 1892 was 23,046; for 1893, 25,104; and for 1894, ,517. The baptisms performed in 1894 numbered 13,902, and the te of confirmation was administered to 1,538 males and 2,494 females. he Church of England in the colony is governed by a Metropolitan, ho is also Primate of Australia and Tasmania, and five other Bishops, hose sees are Bathurst, Goulburn, Newcastle, Grafton and Armidale, d Riverina. By an Act passed in 1881, provision was made for the eation of corporate bodies of trustees, in which property belonging to e Church of England may be vested, and trusts for various dioceses ave been formed under the Act. They are entitled to hold, on behalf the Church, all real and personal property which may be assigned to em by grant, will, or otherwise.

The Roman Catholic Church is presided over by the Cardinal Archshop of Sydney, assisted by a Coadjutor Bishop, under whom are the ffragan bishops of Bathurst, Goulburn, Grafton, Maitland, Armidale, d Wilcannia, the whole colony forming an ecclesiastical province. o fewer than twenty-six religious orders are represented in the colony. 1894 there were 309 priests licensed to celebrate marriages. The umber of Roman Catholic Churches properly so called was 466; besides ese, there were 790 buildings or dwellings used for Divine Service. he accommodation afforded by the churches amounted to about 69,331 ttings, with standing accommodation for 39,280 persons in addition, nd the attendance of distinct persons, counting only adults, was 7,115. A return issued by the Church authorities gives the number of ligious brothers as 179, and the number of nuns as 1,510.

The various branches of the Presbyterian Church in the colony had, uring 1894, 263 churches used for public worship; there were also 15 public buildings or dwellings occasionally used for the same urpose. The number of ministers was 152, of whom 144 were conected with the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, 4 with he Presbyterian Church, Synod of Eastern Australia; 2 with the resbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, reconstituted Synod; 1 ith the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia unattached, and with the Presbyterian Church, unconnected. The accommodaon provided in churches was 67,632 sittings, and the attendance umbered about 42,938, not including Sunday-school children. The resbyterian Church of New South Wales had 10,101 communicants, nd administered 2,006 baptisms during the year. For the purses of this Church, the colony is divided into fourteen Presbyteries, ch comprising a number of separate charges, to each of which a inister is appointed. The management of the affairs of the Church is controlled by a General Assembly, which sits annually, and consists of Ministers and Elders from the Charges within the different Presbyteries. It is presided over by a Moderator, who is elected by the Presbyteries, who also nominate representatives to the Federal Assembly. The first Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales was held in 1865. By Act of Parliament the Assembly has power to grant permission to trustees to mortgage Church property, and trustees are authorised to hold property for the Church generally.

The Wesleyan Methodists in Australia received from the English Conference, in 1884, an independent constitution. There are eight districts into which the Wesleyan Methodist communion is divided. Throughout the colony there are 413 churches and 471 other preaching places, with sittings to the number of 93,917 in all. The denomination has in its service 149 regular clergy and 517 local preachers. The number of church members is said to be 10,162, of whom 1,146 are communicants; and the attendance of adherents at Divine Service is not less than 67,675, not including children. The Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Act of 1889 provides for the appointment of trustees to hold all lands acquired by gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise, under a deed, a model of which forms a schedule to the Act; and the measure gives power to a majority of the trustees to mortgage, exchange, or lease Church properties. It also provides for the appointment of a Custodian and an Acting Custodian of Deeds, who are to be notified by the President of the Conference, and their names published in the *Government Gazette*, and registered in the Land Titles Office. The Tonga District and South Sea Missions are attached to the New South Wales Conference.

The Primitive Methodists, United Methodists, and other Methodists have 98 churches and 25 other buildings, and 41 clergy; the accommodation provided will seat 19,070 persons; and the attendance at Divine Service is about 10,300.

The Congregational Church has 61 churches, as well as 47 buildings or dwellings used for worship; and the sittings provided will accommodate 21,465 persons. The clergy licensed to celebrate marriages number 60, and the attendance at Divine Service on Sundays averages about 12,280.

The various Baptist Churches in the colony have 29 licensed ministers, with 32 churches and 59 school-houses or other buildings devoted to public worship; the Sunday attendance averages 7,880 persons, but there is sitting accommodation for 12,719. The Baptist Union of New South Wales is not incorporated, and so cannot legally hold property in trust for the denomination. Annual sessions, with half-yearly assemblies, are held, presided over by a Chairman, who is elected annually. For several sessions a draft constitution has been under the consideration of the Union, which, amongst other matters, provides that all properties which now belong or may hereafter accrue to the Union shall be held under a Model Trust Deed, by Trustees to be duly appointed.

ation Army was established in Australia in 1882. Melbourne the chief centre for Australasia under the command of a ıer, and Sydney was constituted the headquarters for New les, with a separate chief officer, who is termed Colonel, ıd, all officers and members bearing military titles and s. The various ranks are Commissioner, Colonel, Brigadier, -Captain, Captain, Adjutant, Ensign, Lieutenant, and Cadet. and file consist of sergeant-majors, sergeants, and soldiers, ılso treasurers and secretaries to corps. Persons who are in vith the Salvation Army, but who have not subscribed to the of War"—which combine a confession of faith and a pledge use of intoxicating liquors and baneful drugs—form an League and contribute to the funds of the Army. Persons membership are publicly received, after one month's probation ption to the "Articles of War," and are then attached to ationed nearest their place of residence. The Army has only licensed to celebrate marriages, but has 209 buildings used accommodating 40,186 persons. The number of persons unday service is stated by the authorities to be 52,250.

those above enumerated, there are other distinct religious the most part Protestant denominations, with clergy licensed e to celebrate marriages. The number of clergy ministering 1894 was 37; the churches, school-houses, and public buildings ivine Service numbered 79; and the attendance was about ns.

ber of registered ministers belonging to all faiths was 1,241, ırches numbered 2,049, in addition to which there were 3,067 r other buildings used for public worship. The accommoda-ed would seat about 503,965 persons. The average attend-ıout 390,800.

ll the religious bodies maintain Sunday-schools. The attend-ldren at the Sunday-schools of the leading denominations, ımber of schools and teachers during 1894, was:—

ıination.	No. of schools.	Number of teachers.			Average attendance of scholars.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
ıgland	596	1,196	2,837	4,033	15,670	20,842	36,512
lic	505	322	1,188	1,510	10,094	13,918	24,012
	248	576	1,058	1,634	5,261	6,852	12,113
thodist	356	1,496	1,744	3,240	10,924	13,265	24,189
lists	100	528	512	1,040	3,391	4,146	7,537
al.	70	369	451	820	2,662	3,418	6,080
	42	179	203	382	1,259	1,593	2,852
ny	93	95	130	225	854	1,061	1,915
inations	39	107	140	247	910	1,010	1,920
	2,049	4,868	8,263	13,131	51,025	66,105	117,130

The nce shown in the preceding table amounts to 47 per cent of the to ildren between the ages of 7 and 15 years, inclusive, at which children generally attend Sunday-schools. The numbe of Sunday- ols and teachers, and the attendance during each of th ten years end 1894, were :—

Year.	Number of schools.	Number of teachers.	Average attendance of Scholars.		
			Male.	Female.	Total
1885	1,513	9,986	37,991	46,531	84,522
1886	1,596	10,759	47,307	56,354	103,661
1887	[illegible]	[illegible]	48,333	58,999	107,332
1888	[illegible]	[illegible]	50,556	61,735	112,291
1889	[illegible]	[illegible]	52,778	63,896	116,674
1890	[illegible]	[illegible]	54,520	67,365	121,885
1891	[illegible]	[illegible]	54,932	68,592	123,524
1892	[illegible]	[illegible]	51,739	66,673	118,412
1893	[illegible]	[illegible]	51,928	66,187	118,115
1894	[illegible]	[illegible]	51,025	66,105	117,130

SOCIAL CONDITION AND CHARITIES.

e particular New South Wales, in common with all the provinces
of Australasia, differs greatly from other countries, especially
the Old World: wealth is more widely distributed, and the
contrast between rich and poor, which seems so peculiar a phase
world civilization, finds no parallel in these southern lands.
ere is poverty in the colonies is unhappily true; but no one in
sia is born into conditions from which it is not easy to escape;
hereditary pauper class, which forms so grave a menace to the
of many States, has, therefore, no existence here.

estimated that in the United Kingdom nine persons in every
possess property to the amount of £100; whereas in the
the proportion is not less than 15 per cent. This bare state-
ows the great difference between the conditions of life in
sia and in the richest country of Europe. No poor rate is
the colonies; and although from time to time the assistance
State is claimed by, and granted to able-bodied men who are
o find employment, that assistance has hitherto generally taken
of wages and rations allowed for work specially provided by
e to meet a condition of the labour market which is abnormal.

hief efforts of the authorities in the cause of charity are directed
the rescue of the young from criminal companionship and
on to crime, the support of the aged and infirm, and the care of
ecile or insane; and in granting assistance to private institu-
the cure of the sick and injured, and to societies established
purpose of relieving the pressing necessities of those of the
lasses who, through improvidence, and lack of employment by
dwinner of the family, find themselves temporarily in want.
here the Government grants aid for philanthropic purposes,
agement of the institutions supervising the expenditure is in
hands; and in addition to State-aided institutions, there are
s other private charities whose efforts for the relief of those
nury, sickness, or misfortune has afflicted are beyond all praise.

scue of the young from crime is attempted by means of Indus-
ools, where children who have been abandoned by their natural
s, or who are likely, from the poverty or incapacity of their
to be so neglected as to render them liable to lapse into crime,
n care of, educated, and afterwards apprenticed to useful

callings; and of reformatories where children are sequestered who have already committed crime, but the accommodation in the latter class of institution is at present very limited, and might well be extended.

Public Hospitals.

In the chapter dealing with Vital Statistics it is pointed out that the number of deaths caused by accident is very great. This arises from the peculiar nature of the occupations in which a large proportion of the adult male population is employed. Though New South Wales has long been settled, its resources are by no means developed, and many men a far away from the home comforts of everyday life, and attendance in case of sickness or injury. Hospitals are absolutely essential under the conditions of life in the co ts of the colony, and they are accordingly found in eve ountry town. At the close of the year 1896 there wer or infirmaries in operation or nearing completion in the wn by the following table:—

Hospitals.	an.	Country.	Total.
Subsidised	[illegible]	94	102
Non-subsidised	2	1	3
Privately endowed	1	....	1
Government	1	....	1
Total	12	95	107

The number of beds in these institutions was 2,975, of which 2,621 were intended for ordinary cases, and 354 for infectious cases. The average cubic space per bed varied, in the metropolitan area, between 3,135 feet in the St. George's Cottage Hospital, Kogarah, and 650 feet in the Sick Children's Hospital, Glebe; and in the country, between 1,839 feet in the institution at Taree (Manning River), and 470 feet in that at Collarendabri. During the year, 26,697 persons were under treatment as indoor patients. Of this number, 1,701 remained from the previous year, and 24,996 were admitted during 1896. There were discharged 22,142 persons, either as cured or relieved or at their own request, and 773 as past all human assistance, while 2, The number remaining in hospital at the close of the year was,

723. The following statement shows the number of admissions, disharges, and deaths for the past ten years :—

Year.	Total Patients under treatment.	Number Discharged as cured, etc.	Deaths.		Number of Patients at the close of year.
			Number.	Per cent. under treatment.	
1887	13,438	11,140	1,190	8·9	1,108
1888	15,176	12,569	1,424	9·4	1,183
1889	16,865	14,077	1,477	8·8	1,311
1890	17,041	14,386	1,361	8·0	1,294
1891	19,096	16,183	1,577	8·3	1,336
1892	19,214	16,372	1,440	7·5	1,402
1893	20,424	17,461	1,498	7·3	1,465
1894	23,582	20,259	1,682	7·1	1,641
1895	25,497	21,960	1,829	7·2	1,708
1896	26,697	22,915	2,059	7·7	1,723

The number remaining at the close of the year may be taken as epresenting the average number resident. It will be seen from the able that the increase in the number of patients has been fairly egular, so that the proportion of the population to be found in hospitals s about the same in each year, the average in 1896 being 1·3 per thousand.

The death rate per 100 persons under treatment during the past ten years was 7·9, while the rate for 1896 was 7·7, or 0·2 below the decennial average. The rate for each year is stated above. The death rate of hospitals in New South Wales, compared with those of Europe, is undoubtedly very high. The number of fatal cases is swollen by the inclusion of the deaths of persons already moribund when admitted, and of persons in the last stage of phthisis. It has elsewhere been pointed out that deaths from accidents form a very considerable proportion of the total number registered—a circumstance due to the nature of the occupations of the people, and the dangers incidental to pioneering enterprise. A large majority of the accidents that occur, when not immediately fatal, are treated in the hospitals; and, indeed, these institutions, especially in country districts, are for the most part maintained for the treatment of surgical cases. When these circumstances are taken into consideration the cause of the apparent excess of deaths in the hospitals of the colony will at once be understood.

Applications for admission into the metropolitan hospitals are made to the Government Medical Officer, and it is the duty of that officer to assign the cases to the different hospitals and asylums in accordance with the nature, severity, and special character of the ailments from which the patients are suffering, and the accommodation available at the various institutions. The number of applications dealt with during 1896 was 12,251, as compared with 9,747 in the preceding year.

Of the applicants during 1896, 1,989 received orders for
Hospital, 1,189 for the Prince Alfred Hospital, 1,066 for t
Hospital, 281 for Moorcliff, and 44 for the Carrington Co
Hospital; whilst 2,706 were recommended for admission to th
for the Infirm and Destitute, 4,326 received orders for outd
ment, 166 obtained orders for trusses, and 54 orders for
There were 430 applicants, or 3·5 per cent. of the whole nu
were refused relief, as not being fit subjects for aid. It is ne
bear in mind that these figures represent cases, not indivi
some instances the same person has been in an institution sev
during the year.

The amount expended by the State in the year 1896–7 for
tenance of the sick poor was £12,230, the principal benefici
the Prince Alfred Hospital, the Sydney Hospital, the Moorclif
and the Carrington Convalescent Hospital. For the last six
years the average amount paid by the Government for the m
of sick persons has been £11,783. These sums are in addition t
granted during 1896–7 to the principal hospitals—namel
to the Sydney Hospital; £3,876 to the Prince Alfred Hospi
to the Carrington Hospital; £1,450 to the Hospital for Sick
and to £36,782 paid on account of country and suburban
namely, special grants, £7,550; general subsidy, £28,469;
of building funds, £763; while towards the rent of Mo
Victoria Lodge the Government paid £350, and the expe
the State Hospital at Little Bay amounted to £9,788 for
According to the hospital accounts, the total expenditure of t
ment in connection with the hospitals in the Metropolitan are
for the last five years, £36,674 per annum, the amount for
£41,275; while on the country hospitals the expenditure b
totalled £34,502 for the last year, the average for five years bein
These amounts are irrespective of payments for attendance on
expenses attending special outbreaks of disease in country
which are met from the general medical vote; and the main
the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute of a large number
and incurable hospital cases.

The mere mention of this liberal State expenditure for th
the sick might, without explanation, lead to a misap
with regard to the amount of destitution in the commun
desirable, therefore, to state that out of the 12,251 pe
applied for hospital treatment at the Government expens
admission to the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitu
the year 1896, only 4,233 were natives of New Sout
while 980 came from the other Australasian colonies, 5,
the United Kingdom, and 1,118 from other countries, inc
Chinese and Japanese, and 138 Indians. It is rather remark
while the natives of the United Kingdom form less than a
the total population of the colony, they furnish, neverthele

f those seeking hospital relief. The total number of applicants,
the natives of New South Wales, was 8,018, of whom 532
less than twelve months in the colony, 375 less than six
and 132 less than one month. It is not an infrequent occur-
ind patients who apply for hospital relief admit that they have
lirect from a neighbouring colony, solely for the purpose of
this relief. Many arrive in the last stage of phthisis, or in a
of chronic ill-health, and the adoption of some legislation, such
in other colonies, to prevent the influx of persons likely to
charge upon the State, is a pressing necessity.

exact information is to hand respecting the outdoor relief
by hospitals, this form of charity not being so important as
lief; nevertheless, the number of attendances during 1896 was
and estimating four attendances to each person, 27,773 persons
ved.

ng from consideration the Government establishment at Little
expenditure in 1896 of all the hospitals of the colony, for
other than building and repairs, was £109,782, representing an
f £40 6s. per bed. This sum is somewhat in excess of the
a deduction should be made for out-patients, but the informa-
t available. The average cost of each indoor patient treated
0s. 4d. The subscriptions and donations received from private
mounted to £54,459, including receipts from patients to the
f £11,561; and the miscellaneous receipts amounted to £6,803;
1,262 from private sources and from patients. From the State
of £63,685 was received, so that the total revenue of hospitals
sources was £124,947. The following statement shows the
and expenditure of these institutions for the year 1896:—

ue and Expenditure.	Metropolitan.	Country.	New South Wales.
	£	£	£
ent aid	29,183	34,502	63,685
contributions	20,389	34,070	54,459
urces	3,462	3,341	6,803
al receipts	53,034	71,913	124,947
re—			
and repairs	2,903	8,308	11,211
ance (including salaries)	41,249	56,732	97,981
neous	3,912	7,889	11,801
al expenditure	48,064	72,929	120,993

penditure in connection with the Little Bay Hospital has not
ided in the figures stated above, that institution being entirely
ads of the Government. At this hospital, 2,388 patients were
ring the year. The average number resident daily was 204,

and the average stay in hospital of discharged patients was 3 There were 120 deaths, and 1,641 patients were discharged c relieved, and 40 unrelieved. The number of lepers under det the lazaret on 31st December, 1895, was 37, and at the end 16. The expenditure on the Little Bay Hospital during £12,092, so that the total expenditure of the State on hospitals to £75,777. The gross expenditure by the Government during cial year 1896–7 upon all hospitals and asylums, with the ex asylums for the insane and Mission Stations for Aborigines, was or inclusive of these institutions, £365,089. This sum includes expended on the asylums for the infirm and destitute; £5,9 support of women and children in benevolent asylums; £7,3 maintenance of deserted children, paupers, &c.; £8,250 grant Benevolent Society, Sydney; and £3,500 to the Benevolen Newcastle. The Government institutions for the relief of adults, viz., the two asylums at Parramatta, the asylums at Newington, and Rookwood, and the cottage homes for married Parramatta, contained altogether 3,375 inmates at the end of 1 number of inmates in each institution will be found in tables on and 748, but, in addition to the indoor relief, considerable aid i to the outside poor. Apart from medical advice and medicin relief consists largely of supplies of provisions. Informatio the full extent of the relief thus afforded at all institutions is no but the goods gratuitously distributed at the Benevolent Sydney, during the year 1896, were as follow:—Bread, 400,0 flour, 204,933 lb.; meat, 195,343 lb.; tea, 22,095 lb.; sugar, 1 sago, 8,905 lb.; rice, 3,590 lb.; oatmeal, 8,009 lb.; arro cornflour, 162 lb.; and milk, 513 quarts. Boots and blank portion of the bounty distributed; and, in addition, a sum was granted in payment of rent allowances, so that many of were assisted by the helping hand of this deserving charity in homes. The cost of provisions distributed during the year w for ordinary cases, and £4,056 special relief to the unemp total of £8,623, and money allowances amounted to £2,185.

Besides hospitals properly so-called, there exist various i for the reception of fallen women; for the treatment of the the deaf and dumb; for the relief of consumptives; for min the wants of destitute women; for granting casual aid t persons; for the help of discharged prisoners, and for many poses which rouse the charity of the people. Steps are now b towards the establishment of a new Hospital for Consumpti the treatment of persons suffering from phthisis may be c under the most favourable conditions, and in the light which medical knowledge has thrown upon this insidious disease.

The Infants' Home, Ashfield; the Hospital for Sick Childr the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Newto other institutions in different parts of the colony, receive

; but they are maintained principally by private contributions. ingement of these, and, indeed, of almost all institutions for the f the sick, is in the hands of committees elected by persons ing towards their support. In addition to the above, there are nstitutions under the control of the Roman Catholic body, and d entirely by private charity. At the City Night Refuge and itchen there were no less than 105,850 meals given during 1896, ter was provided in 47,450 instances.

Destitute Children.

roblem of dealing with destitute children and those liable from vironment to become criminal is naturally surrounded with very fficulty, and its solution was attempted many years ago by the ment of the orphanages at Parramatta and the destitute 's asylum at Randwick, as well as the Vernon Training Ship , and the Biloela Reformatory and Industrial School for girls. tem of crowding children in large establishments was rightly ed as open to many grave objections, and in 1880 a scheme of treatment was inaugurated. Accordingly an Act was passed Legislature, empowering the formation of a Board, to whose he destitute or neglected children of the colony were entrusted. tate Children's Relief Board commenced its operations on the il, 1881, with 24 boys and 35 girls, or a total of 59 children. the sixteen years of its existence, the Board has dealt with no n 8,387 children, who have been removed for boarding out e State institutions of the colony, and others partly supported ic contributions. Of that number, 4,716 children had been ischarged to their parents or otherwise removed from the of the Board, so that there were remaining under its charge th April, 1897, 3,671, of whom 2,085 were boys and 1,586 were f these children, 2,685, or 1,533 boys and 1,152 girls, were boarded ersons deemed to be eligible after strict inquiry by the Board. s of payment range from 5s. to 10s. per week, the higher rates id for infants under one year, who require more than ordinary strict supervision is exercised by the officers of the Board in see that the children are not ill-treated or neglected, and in to this there are voluntary lady visitors in all parts of the ho keep a constant watch upon these children of the State. he boarded-out children, there were also, in April, 1897, 126 who adopted without payment, and who were, in the main, treated by ter-parents as though they were their own kin; 55 of these children were boys, and 71 were girls. Then there were 497 363 girls, or 860 children in all, who were apprenticed but were er the control of the Board. It is asserted that the practical of the boarding-out system is exemplified by the expansion shown in the figures. Upwards of thirteen hundred children hav up and bee taught useful trades and profitable occupations, m whom wo l otherwise have drifted into the criminal or populat

Dur ie year, 1,510 applications were received by the Bo State ren. Of these applications, 1,070 were inquired into Inspectors attached to the Department, with the result that 76 approved of, and 301 were refused—in most cases because the cla of the applicants did not appear to come up to the standard re by the Board. The system of placing delicate young childre to nurse with healthy matronly women in the country distric been found to work well. In April, 1897, there were 93 children under control, cost of £2,090; and there we children under the control of guardians, by whom they had adopted, or to whom no subsidy was paid by the State. Of the a tices, nearly all the girls were in domestic service, while over eighths of the boys were with farmers. The total cost of managin division during the twelve months was £2,150, expended for ins and clothing. Taken as a whole, the apprentices are turnin remarkably well, and it is very seldom there are any serious com either from the children or from their guardians. At the close of 1897, there were 17 children in the depôt, 9 in hospitals, and 137 cottage homes for invalids at Parramatta and Mittagong. Altho many as 1,136 children passed through the Central Home at Padd during the year, owing to the system of prompt removal to the c the average daily number at that institution was not more th During the year, 19 boys and 12 girls died. It is claimed that the pursued by the Board of extending to the dependent children country the privileges of family life and home training in place monotonous and artificial style of living in large asylums ha attended with successful results, and the cost to the State, eq £14 12s. 10d. per child dealt with, or £14 3s. 11d. after deducting p contributions, can scarcely be looked upon as excessive.

The number of children under the control of the Board for eac ending April, since 1881, is shown in the following table:—

Year ending April.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Year ending April.	Boys	Girls
1881	24	35	59	1890	1,380	904
1882	40	63	103	1891	1,417	952
1883	119	188	307	1892	1,390	1,006
1884	232	320	552	1893	1,472	1,065
1885	564	462	1,026	1894	1,606	1,203
1886	779	587	1,366	1895	1,822	1,352
1887	1,099	703	1,802	1896	1,954	[illegible]
1888	1,202	758	1,960	1897	2,085	1,
1889	1,316	857	2,173			

ages of children placed out since the inauguration of the Board's tions are as follow :—

Age.	Number.
Under 1 year	247
1 and under 2 years	282
2 ,, ,, 3 ,,	536
3 ,, ,, 4 ,,	681
4 ,, ,, 5 ,,	701
5 ,, ,, 6 ,,	763
6 ,, ,, 7 ,,	821
7 ,, ,, 8 ,,	793
8 ,, ,, 9 ,,	870
9 ,, ,, 10 ,,	830
10 ,, ,, 11 ,,	681
11 ,, ,, 12 ,,	516
12 years and over	666
Total	8,387

largest number of children dealt with by the Board have been ed from the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, 5,121 having been trans- from that institution up to the end of April, 1897; while from the wick Asylum 307, and from the Orphan Schools, Parramatta, 362 en have been taken. The orphan schools were closed in September, and the children who would formerly have been sent to them ow taken charge of by the Board. The remaining children were red from other public institutions and hospitals: From the Vernon obraon, 365; from the Infants' Home, Ashfield, 81; from the trial School, Parramatta, 153; from the Shaftesbury Reformatory, from Little Bay Hospital, 30; from the Benevolent Asylum, astle, 44; from the Prince Alfred Hospital, 20; from the Children's ital, 24; from the Sydney Hospital, 17; from the Boys' Home, lmere, 71; from the Carpenterian Reformatory, 40; from the incent de Paul Home, 74; from the Deaf and Dumb and Blind ution, 16; and from other institutions, 1,260; making a total of as aforesaid. The gross amount expended by the Government g the year on the State Children's Relief Department, including the amatta and Mittagong Cottage Homes, was £43,602, and parents' ibutions toward the maintenance of their children amounted to

.

m returns prepared it is estimated that since the initiation of the ling-out system in this colony it has saved not less than £170,000 State, and the children individually are more satisfactorily treated could be the case in crowded institutions. The number of destitute children in State institutions, including boarders paid for by Government, at the end of each of the past ten years, was as follow

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1887	1,973	1892	2,239
1888	2,091	1893	2,502
1889	2,218	1894	2,708
1890	2,077	1895	3,041
1891	2,111	1896	3,240

During the last few yea nber has largely increased.

Four industrial schools an ormatories are maintained by State. There are the Parramatta Industrial School and the Shafte Reformatory for girls; the Sobraon training-ship for boys; and Carpenterian Reformatory at Eastwood, also for boys. The training for a long time was used practically as a reformatory as well as an i trial school, for the absence of a reformatory led to many boys app before the Courts being sent to the ship. In August, 1895, how the Carpenterian Reformatory was opened on part of the Brush Estate, and arrangements were made to receive therein criminal and to subject them to proper discipline and to teach them trades. At the end of the year 1896 there were 91 boys confin the Institution; but in the course of 1897 the Minister for P Instruction released 39 of the boys, owing to the deficient acco dation provided by the building.

The following table shows the number of children confined i industrial schools and reformatories during the last ten years. ship used as the training school for boys was formerly the Ve During 1887 the industrial school for girls was removed from Bi Cockatoo Island, to the building formerly occupied by the R Catholic Orphan School, Parramatta:—

Year.	Vernon or Sobraon.	Parramatta (formerly Biloela).	Shaftesbury Reformatory.	Carpenterian Reformatory.	Total.
1887	203	90	26	......	319
1888	209	93	28	......	330
1889	227	87	42	......	356
1890	208	64	32	......	304
1891	230	80	32	......	342
1892	278	78	25	......	381
1893	303	103	22	......	428
1894	349	117	2	......	468
1895	380	120	1	30	[illegible]
1896	331	124	15	91	

owing table gives the number of destitute children in other l private institutions during the ten years ended 1896 :—

Randwick Asylum.	Benevolent Asylum.	Infants' Home, Ashfield.	State Children's Relief Department.		Other Institutions.	Total.
			Boarded out.	In Cottage Homes.		
267	101	23	1,278	... ..	115	1,784
246	168	56	1,341	108	14	1,933
216	151	118	1,348	117	25	1,975
212	161	62	1,373	116	16	1,940
183	147	52	1,389	122	23	1,916
176	153	60	1,464	143	558	2,554
172	119	42	1,741	153	579	2,806
148	83	59	1,948	146	842	3,226
146	135	50	2,266	162	857	3,616
146	147	43	2,488	152	879	3,855

first five years shown in the foregoing statement the number ite children averaged 1,910 per annum, or 1·76 per thousand al population; while for the last five years the yearly average 1, or 2·57 per thousand. The actual increase of destitute however, is not so great as these figures show, for in the early e period the returns received from the private institutions so complete as they are now.

pended table shows the number of children under 15 years of tained in reformatories and in charitable institutions of a public te character at the end of 1896. In the figures relating to ent asylums are included the 2,488 children boarded out by Children's Relief Department :—

Institutions.	Children.
Government	3,240
Public	543
Church of England	17
Roman Catholic Church	583
Wesleyan	19
Salvation Army	14
Total	4,416

mber of children supported by public and private charity at f 1895 was 4,147, so that there was an increase of 269 during e months. The deaths of children in charitable institutions umbered 171, the total for 1895 being 133. In the number ear the deaths of boarded-out children are included.

DESTITUTE ADULTS.

The number of destitute adults, or persons 15 years of age wholly or in part supported by the State as inmates of th asylums of the colony at the close of the year 1896, was 3,758, 2,831 were males, and 927 females. The great majority of tho asylums are persons of very advanced years who are unable The inmates of the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, however, exception to this rule, as a large proportion of them are destitut who use the institution as a lying-in hospital. The numbers and females in the various institutions, with the ratio per adult population at the close of each of the past ten years, follow :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per 1,000 of Adult P	
				Male.	Femal
1887	1,719	471	2,190	5·0	1·8
1888	1,820	521	2,341	5·1	1·9
1889	1,912	588	2,500	5·1	2·0
1890	2,039	582	2,621	5·2	1·9
1891	2,147	603	2,750	5·3	1·9
1892	2,257	657	2,914	5·4	2·0
1893	2,523	666	3,189	6·0	2·0
1894	2,576	741	3,317	6·0	2·1
1895	2,851	781	3,632	6·5	2·2
1896	2,831	927	3,758	6·3	2·6

The following shows the number of adults remaining in the Benevolent Asylums at the close of the years 1887 to 1896 :—

Year.	Sydney (Pitt-street).	Newington.	Liverpool.	Parramatta.			Rookwood.	West Maitland.	Newcastle.	Other
				George-street.	Mac-quarie-st.	Cottage Homes.				
1887	77	366	767	644	258	...	...	35	28	1
1888	97	397	778	721	286	...	...	36	26	..
1889	83	454	801	771	283	39	...	37	32	..
1890	92	462	789	867	288	42	...	39	28	1
1891	103	491	793	938	284	62	...	44	34	
1892	110	519	836	1,000	312	43	...	51	41	
1893	65	577	887	984	332	43	202	53	40	
1894	66	639	785	995	321	43	379	42	40	
1895	105	637	844	1,076	296	44	427	46	39	[illegible]
1896	105	662	779	982	345	44	563	48	30	[illegible]

The Liverpool Asylum and the two large institutions are homes for males ; the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, ıe institution at Newington is used chiefly for persons of this sex. nd indigent married couples have the use of the Cottage Homes, matta, which were opened in March, 1889. Owing to the asylums rerpool and Parramatta becoming overcrowded, the Government, the latter part of 1892, decided to utilise the buildings erected okwood several years previously, and intended for a reformatory ys, though never used for that purpose; consequently, in March, the premises were opened as an additional asylum for male es, of whom there were 202 in the institution at the close of the 379 at the end of 1894, 427 at the end of 1895, and 563 at the 1896.

the following table will be found the number of adult male and inmates of all charitable institutions from which information ceived at the close of 1896 :—

Institutions.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Government	2,725	650	3,375
Public	100	347	447
Church of England	33	21	54
Roman Catholic	33	163	196
Salvation Army	37	45	82
Hebrew	7	4	11
Total	2,935	1,230	4,165

above total of 4,165 is lower by 86 than the total for 1895, which ıe highest on record, and higher by 250 than the number for 1894. g 1896 the deaths of 747 adults took place in the various institutions. ding together the numbers of adults and children in order to the proportion, as compared with the whole population, of those colony dependent on the State for support, the ratios per 1,000 e last ten years are found to be as follow :—

ar.	Children.	Adults.	Total.	Per 1,000 of		
				Children under 15 years.	Adult Population.	Total Population.
87	1,973	2,190	4,163	4·8	3·6	4·2
88	2,091	2,341	4,432	5·0	3·7	4·2
89	2,218	2,500	4,718	5·3	3·8	4·4
90	2,077	2,621	4,698	4·8	3·8	4·2
91	2,111	2,750	4,861	4·7	3·8	4·2
92	2,239	2,914	5,153	4·9	4·0	4·3
93	2,502	3,189	5,691	5·3	4·2	4·7
94	2,708	3,317	6,025	5·6	4·3	4·8
95	3,041	3,632	6,673	6·2	4·6	5·2
96	3,240	3,758	6,998	6·5	4·7	5·4

The proportion of paupers to the whole population shown in t table, though perceptibly increasing, is still small compared w of other countries. The proportion of population in the Kingdom maintained in the workhouses and other instituti similar character at the cost of the ratepayers was as follow beginning of the year 1896 :—

England and Wales	7·1 per thousand.
Scotland	6·3 „
Ireland	9·3 „
United Kingdom	7·3 „

as against 5·2 per thousand in this colony dependent upon t for support, a state of things plainly illustrating the happier l people of Australia. Th large amount of outdoor reli United Kingdom which is not n :luded in the above figures. were taken into consideration thr proportions would be:—Engl Wales, 27·1 per thousand; Sc land, 23·9; Ireland, 21·3; United Kingdom, 26·1 per thousand.

The receipts and disbursements of the charitable institution colony during the year 1896 were as shown below. The figure include the money received and expended by several denomi institutions the financial condition of which is not made public:

Receipts :—		Disbursements :—	
Government aid	£94,160	Buildings and repairs..	
Private contributions	26,230	Maintenance (including sala-ries)	
Other sources	30,620	Other expenses	
Total	£151,010	Total	

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

The treatment of the insane is dealt with under the head c Statistics. The average number of insane persons resident in during 1896 was 3,710, while the total number under care wa These numbers include those resident at the four licensed houses insane at Cook's River, Picton, and Ryde. The gross expendi hospitals for insane, wholly supported by the State, during 18 £99,900, while the collections from private sources amounted to £ leaving a net cost to the Government of £86,043. The average cost per patient was 10s. 5¾d., without deducting collections, and after these were deducted, while the net annual expenditure per population was 1s. 4d. The total expenditure by the State institutions connected with the care of the insane, inclusive of the maintenance of patients in the Reception House, Darlinghurst amount paid to the South Australian Government for the mai of insane patients from the Broken Hill District, expenses, was £103,928, and the total collections amou

t the actual expenditure during the year was £90,015. The
ements by which a number of Government patients were main-
at the licensed house at Cook's River ceased at the end of 1894.
weeks previously all the Government patients were removed to
blic institutions, the majority being sent to Rydalmere, where new
had been erected; thus, at that date, for the first time for twenty-
ears, the whole of the patients under the care of the Government
oused within the walls of its own institutions. The treatment
out to the insane is that dictated by the greatest humanity, and
spitals are fitted with all conveniences and appliances which
science points out as most calculated to mitigate or remove the
n under which these unfortunates labour.

Protection of the Aborigines.

Board is in existence for the protection of the aborigines, the
of which is to ameliorate the condition of the blacks, and to
e a general guardianship over them. There are also three
stations for the benefit of the Aborigines. These are
oogunga, on the river Murray; Warangesda, on the Murrum-
; and Brewarrina, on the Darling. The mission stations are
the control of a society called the Aborigines' Protection
ation, who are responsible to the Board for their administration.
atives at these settlements are comfortably housed, and are
aged to devote their energies to agricultural and kindred
tions, and elementary education is imparted to the children.
amount expended by the Government during 1896 for the benefit
Aborigines was £17,312. This included an expenditure of
1 by the Board on Aborigines generally; £616 for the fares of
gines travelling on the railway, and £2,764 in liquidating claims
ed by the Aborigines Protection Association in connection with
ission stations. The sum of £860 was expended on medical
ance and medicine; £1,029 on buildings, school books, etc.;
5 on blankets, clothing, etc.; and £67 for burial expenses. The
gines are referred to at length in the chapter on Population.

Total Expenditure on Charity.

total expenditure of the State in connection with all forms of
and in aid of hospitals, asylums for the insane, and other charitable
tions, amounted in 1896 to £425,478; adding to this the amount
vate subscriptions, donations, and other receipts of hospitals, etc.,
oor and the unfortunate benefited during the year to the extent
ut £557,500. This sum, though not excessive in proportion to
opulation, may yet appear large in view of the general wealth of
lony, which should preclude the necessity of so many seeking assist-
for the present there is no risk that the charitable institutions

will enc ge the growth of the pauper element, and that free qu
and free d will be made so accessible that those who are
clined to .. rk will be tempted to live at the public expense.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

Owing to the stoppage of public and private works consequent
depression in the money market, there were, in the latter part of
a large number of persons in the colony who, though able and w
to work, were unable to find any work to do. So great an amou
this kind of distress was in existence that the Government felt comp
to take steps for the purpose of helping genuine workers to th
ployment they were de btaining; and in February, 18
Labour Bureau was form those who wanted work done
obtain labour, and those d red to work could hear of wha
there was to do. No ch s m le for registration, and the matt
wages is left to be settle ween the parties concerned. In the
year of its existence the B found employment for 8,154 per
in the second year for 10 in the third year for 16,380, in
fourth year for 20,576, and in the fifth year for 13,718, making a
of 69,185 altogether. In addition to these, it is estimated that a
5,000 persons indirectly obtained work through the medium of
Bureau. Relief was given to those in absolute want, in the shap
rations, of which 30,960 were issued during 1892-3, 52,525 in 18
41,884 in 1894-5, 318,200 in 1895-6, and 17,065 in 1896-7, at
average cost of about 1s. 6d. each. Relief works carried on du
1895-6, for which payment was made in rations, account for the l
increase shown for that year. These works had practically b
completed before the beginning of the year 1896-7. Private subsc
tions have been disbursed among the needy, and parcels of clothing
tributed. The daily attendance of unemployed at the Bureau is f
500 to 600. The total cost of relief for 1896-7 was £1,429, as c
pared with £23,866 for the preceding year.

LAW AND CRIME.

POLICE.

the end of the year 1896 the police force of New South Wales consisted of 1,874 men of all ranks, of whom 701 were mounted. 'orce, which comprises 11 superintendents, 10 inspectors, 31 sub- :tors, 64 senior-sergeants, 113 sergeants, 284 senior-constables, constables, and 16 detectives, is commanded by an Inspector- :al, who is under the control of the Chief Secretary of the colony, olice being directly in the service of the State. The system of :ipal government which exists in New South Wales is a very 'fect one, and the question of handing over to the incorporated the power to raise local bodies of constabulary and to appoint own honorary magistrates has not been seriously considered; nor if such powers did exist is it at all likely that any municipality l, were the matter left optional, care to burden itself with the rvation of order while the Government continued to perform this in the unincorporated districts.

low will be found the number of police in the metropolitan and ry districts at the close of each of the last ten years. It will be that with the growth of population the force is steadily increasing ength, although it is scarcely keeping pace with the advance made numbers of the people :—

Year.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.	Number of Inhabitants to each Police Officer.
1887	502	989	1,491	684
1888	518	995	1,513	694
1889	543	1,024	1,567	690
1890	594	1,057	1,651	679
1891	643	1,022	1,665	699
1892	697	1,059	1,756	682
1893	714	1,062	1,776	689
1894	731	1,088	1,819	688
1895	745	1,108	1,853	690
1896	749	1,125	1,874	687

ie protection of life and property is not the only duty which the e are called upon to perform. On the contrary, a large portion of time is taken up in the collection of the agricultural and stock lules and the returns of works and manufactories, and other work like character; in many cases they also act as Clerks of Petty

Sessions a Wardens' clerks, and fill other offices having no dir connectio th police duties. The test which is sometimes applied order to tain the law-abiding character of the populations of various es, namely, to compare the numbers of persons prote by each officer, is quite worthless unless the diverse nature of the du performed by the police and the vast difference in the areas of provinces are also taken into consideration. The comparison affor by the following table may, therefore, only be accepted for what it worth. The figures, like those previously given, refer to the end of year 1896 :—

Colony.	Police.			To each Police Officer.	
		ntry.	Total.	Inhabitants.	Square miles.
New South Wales......	[illegible]	125	1,874	687	166
Victoria	[illegible]	732	1,412	835	62
Queensland	[illegible]	641	804	580	831
South Australia	[illegible]	209	369	972	2,449
Western Australia.....	[illegible]	351	438	273	2,228
Tasmania	[illegible]	218	261	627	100
New Zealand	[illegible]	463	517	1,366	202

A comparison of the police forc s of the principal cities of Aus lasia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, is given in the table, and it would appear that the Australasian capitals have portionately less police supervision than many of the other pl enumerated in the list. This, however, of itself argues nothing in fav of the law-abiding character of the population of the Australasian cit but rather that a large number of police could with advantage be ad to the force now employed for their protection :—

Cities.	Strength of Police.	Population to each Police Constable.	Cities.	Strength of Police.	Popula to ea Poli Consta
Australasia—	No.	No.	United Kingdom—	No.	No.
Sydney	749	547	Manchester	1,031	[illegible]
Melbourne	680	663	Edinburgh	507	[illegible]
Brisbane	163	619	Glasgow	1,310	[illegible]
Adelaide	160	907	Dublin	1,145	[illegible]
Perth	87	392	United States—		
Hobart	43	881	New York.........	5,051	[illegible]
Wellington	54	773	Philadelphia......	2,451	[illegible]
Auckland............	57	1,011	Chicago	3,400	[illegible]
United Kingdom—			Brooklyn	1,836	[illegible]
London	14,260	395	Boston	1,[illegible]	[illegible]
Liverpool	1,294	400	Baltimore	[illegible]	[illegible]

total cost of the police service in New South Wales for the year was £330,516. This sum, however, includes not only the the officers and men, but also the expenses of equipment, forage, ounting, as well as of the office establishment. The pay of a le ranges from 6s. to 8s. per diem, while sergeants receive from to 10s. 6d. per day. Detectives receive from 9s. to 12s. per

mparison of the cost of the police forces of the various colonies found below. The greater proportion of mounted troopers in olonies where very large and thinly-populated districts have to red tends to make the average cost somewhat higher than in the rovinces :—

Colony.	Police Force.	Total Cost of Force.	Average Cost per Constable.			Average Cost per head of Population.		
	No.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
uth Wales	1,874	330,516	176	7	4½	0	5	1½
....	1,412	247,552	175	6	4¾	0	4	2½
and	804	173,423	215	14	0	0	7	5¼
ustralia	369	75,339	204	3	5	0	4	2½
Australia	438	83,140	189	16	4	0	13	11
ia.........................	261	34,063	130	10	2¼	0	4	2
aland	517	99,351	192	2	11¾	0	2	9¾
ustralasia	5,675	1,043,384	183	17	1¼	0	4	10½

COMPILATION OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

ne who has given his attention to the subject of the prevalence e in Australasia can have failed to be struck by the fact that, in ison with the other colonies, New South Wales has always shown rkably high rate of offenders—a rate which, it is true, has, as in se of the other colonies, fallen with the social progress of the but which has, nevertheless, year after year, pertinaciously ined its unenviable pre-eminence amongst the provinces, with the ion of Western Australia, which is in quite an exceptional position. quarter the theory was put forward that this state of affairs e due to a blood taint derived from the bond population of early but unfortunately for this conjecture, the statistics show that at e it was hazarded only 36·2 per cent. of the offenders were natives colony, while even at present the proportion barely reaches one- Undoubtedly the position occupied by New South Wales is not

one into w[illegible]h the colony has been forced and held there by one
alone. Th[illegible]bsence of an Act to prevent the influx of criminals
other pr[illegible]es; the large floating population of the colony
differer[illegible] the criminal code; the greater strictness of police ad
tration [illegible] these are matters which must be recognised as h
exerted and as exerting an appreciable influence on the prevaler
crime in New South Wales. But careful investigation during th
few years has shown that the returns, both of the police and o
Clerks of Petty Sessions, have painted the colony in much darker
than the actual number of the criminal population warranted. For
great importance was attached to the number of apprehensions s
by the police to have been made during the year; but it has be
evident that the figures [illegible] from the police are somewhat
leading, as t[illegible] transactions of the various sta
and offices r[illegible] a[illegible]mber of persons apprehended.
example, it is[illegible]tice[illegible]t an arrested person at every
into which he r[illegible]ougl[illegible] to making an appearance befor
Bench, and it is not too m[illegible]y that the police returns are
stated to the extent of so[illegible]ing like 13 per cent. Under
circumstances, it was thought better to abandon altogether
figures compiled by the police, and to rely upon the returns of
courts alone, since every person who is entered in the charge-b
must be brought up in open court; but this course has only
possible within the past two years, for the returns of the Clerl
Petty Sessions themselves have been to a great extent mislea
Indeed, it has now been considered advisable to discard
statistics of magistrates' courts for all years prior to 1891, for
to 1890 the form of return filled up by the Clerks of Petty Ses
which was that drawn up for use in the United Kingdom, was suc
to lend itself very readily to careless compilation, being of such a
that the entries made could not be checked in the statistical
Accordingly, another form of return, which would ensure the acc
entry of the proceedings in magistrates' courts, was prepared and
into use for the first time in 1891. Since that year imperfectio
the compilation of the statistics have been remedied one by one as
have manifested themselves. It was found that a large eleme
confusion was introduced by the presentation of the business o
courts on the different bases of cases, offences, and persons. One
of course, might cover a number of persons; and one person mig
charged with several offences on the one appearance. To make a
comparison between the population and the persons who are giv
lawlessness the number of offenders should be taken, and it is o
basis that the figures have been compiled for 1894, 1895, and 1896
the preceding three years shown in the comparative tables which follo
explanation, only the actual numbers of offences were obtainable an
figures have therefore been reduced to the basis of offende
which gives as correct an estimate as it is possible to obt

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

In the Metropolitan district of the colony, the Courts of Petty
ssions are presided over by Stipendiary Magistrates; and in the
untry districts by Police Magistrates and Justices of the Peace, the
ter of whom are honorary officers. All persons entered in the charge-
oks of the police, except such as have been committed by a Supreme
urt Judge or by a Coroner, must be brought up at Petty Sessions,
her to be dealt with summarily or to be committed to a higher
bunal. With the exception of breaches of the Distillation Act, the
stoms Regulations' Acts, the Chinese Restriction Act, and the
ildren's Protection Act, which are punishable in the lower courts by
maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment in the case of the first
o statutes, and of two years' imprisonment in the case of the other
o, the jurisdiction of the magistracy of New South Wales is limited
offences involving a penalty of not more than six months' imprison-
nt. A magistrate is not empowered to pass cumulative sentences;
t while a person is undergoing a term of imprisonment for the com-
ttal of one offence he may be brought up in a lower court to answer
another charge, and if convicted may be sentenced to another term,
take effect from the expiry of the first sentence.

Exclusive of those charged as being of unsound mind, the persons
ught before magistrates during the year 1896 numbered 56,498, of
om 36,642 had been arrested, while 19,856 appeared on private and
ice summons. This gave a proportion of 4,387 per 100,000 of popu-
on, as compared with 4,790 in the year 1895; so that during the
lve months the amount of crime, as disclosed by the returns of the
er courts, declined to the extent of 403 per 100,000 inhabitants.
ow will be found a table showing in what manner the accused
sons were brought up to answer the charges preferred against them,
l how their cases were disposed of. It is to be understood that where
eral offences were charged against a person on the one appearance,
ount is only taken of the most important :—

How brought up.	Persons charged before Magistrates.	Summarily dealt with.			Committed.
		Convicted.	Discharged, etc.	Total.	
rrest	36,642	32,300	3,085	35,385	1,257
private and police mmons.................	19,856	13,193	6,586	19,779	77
Total	56,498	45,493	9,671	55,164	1,334

t will be seen from the above table that of the 56,498 persons
rged before magistrates during the year, only 1,334 were committed

to higher courts, and no less than 55,164 were summarily dealt wit convictions being recorded in 45,493 cases, while 9,671 persons w discharged after evidence had been taken, or against whom proceedi were not pressed. Appended is a division of the accused pers according to sex, from which it may be gathered that while fem contributed 7,765 to the ranks of the offenders, only 1·07 per cent. their number were committed to a higher tribunal, as compared w 2·57 per cent. of the males. Of the females committed, about one-were charged with larceny, bigamy, and crimes connected with the bi of children :—

Sex.	Charged before Magistrates.	Summarily dealt with.			Comm
		Convicted.	Discharged, etc.	Total.	
Males	48,733	39,052	8,430	47,482	1,2
Females	7,765	6,441	1,241	7,682	
Total	56,498	45,493	9,671	55,164	1,3

Comparing the male and female offenders with the population, it w be found that of every 100,000 males in the colony during 1896, 7,0 were charged with offences against the law, while of an equal num of females but 1,299 were accused before magistrates. The summ convictions give the proportions of 5,658 per 100,000 males and 1,0 per 100,000 females. In the case of committals, however, the fem emerge from the comparison on much more favourable terms; for wh 181 of every 100,000 males were sent up to higher courts during t year, the proportion of females so dealt with was but 14. The precedi table, reduced to a population basis, will be found below :—

Sex.	Per 100,000 of Population.				
	Charged before Magistrates.	Summarily dealt with.			Committed.
		Convicted.	Discharged, etc.	Total.	
Males	7,060	5,658	1,221	6,879	181
Females	1,299	1,078	207	1,285	14
Persons	4,387	3,533	751	4,284	103

Although the mean population within the metropolitan area in l was 409,250 as compared with 878,505 in the country districts, 29, of the 56,498 persons charged before magistrates during the year w brought up in the metropolitan division. On the basis of populat this gives a proportion of 7,157 offenders per 100,000 inhabitant metropolis, or considerably more than twice the rate for the country, ., 3,097 per 100,000. It is, of course, obvious that where the tempta- to break the law is greatest, the largest number of offenders will found ; and it is also the case that many offences, such as drunken- and other offences against good order, are liable to be promptly alt with in large aggregations of population, while to a great extent y escape attention in sparsely-settled districts. If an examination made into the nature of the offences with which the accused were arged, it will be found that, while the total rate of the metropolitan strict was 131 per cent. higher than that of the country, the rate of ences against the person and against property in Sydney and suburbs s but 77 per cent. above the corresponding rate for the other parts the colony. The difference in the percentage of offenders committed the two divisions, which may be seen from the following table, is iefly attributable to the great excess of persons within the metropoli- n area charged with breaches of good order :—

District.	Persons charged before Magistrates.	Summarily dealt with.			Committed.
		Convicted.	Discharged, etc.	Total.	
TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS.					
Metropolitan............	29,290	23,984	4,759	28,743	547
Country	27,208	21,509	4,912	26,421	787
New South Wales ...	56,498	45,493	9,671	55,164	1,334
PER 100,000 OF POPULATION.					
Metropolitan............	7,157	5,860	1,163	7,023	134
Country	3,097	2,448	560	3,008	89
New South Wales ...	4,387	3,533	751	4,284	103

Leaving the committals to be dealt with in the superior court returns, investigation into the nature of the offences of which the 55,164 sons summarily dealt with in 1896 were accused, shows that there re 3,866 persons charged with offences against the person, 747 with ences against property with violence, 4,792 with offences against perty without violence, 33 with forgery and offences against the rency, and 45,726 with other offences, the overwhelming majority of ich were of a minor character, consisting chiefly of drunkenness and er offences against good order—such as disorderly conduct and using d language—and of vagrancy and breaches of various Acts. It is ident, therefore, that the somewhat large number of offenders sum- rily dealt with is made up principally of persons who cannot justly included amongst the criminal classes, the total number of offenders inst the person and against property, including forgery and offences against t irrency, being 9,438 out of a total of 55,164. App will b 1 a classification of the offenders summarily dealt during f the past six years, with the proportions per 100,(popula As already explained, the figures originally publish the years 91, 1892, and 1893 referred to offences, and they therefore, been reduced to the basis of offenders as in the succ years:—

Year.	Against the Person.	Against Property, with violence.	Against Property, without violence.	Forgery and Offences against the Currency.	Good Order, and all other Offences.	T
			OFFENDERS.			
1891	5,515		22	43	56,433	6
1892	6,178		96	24	56,140	6
1893	5,381	1	27	19	54,926	6
1894	4,386		02	24	49,772	[illegible]
1895	4,105		65	15	49,335	[illegible]
1896	3,866		92	33	45,726	[illegible]
			100,000 OF POPULATION.			
1891	482·3	8	·2	3·7	4,934·7	5,
1892	522·9	84	·6	2·0	4,751·7	5,
1893	444·5	82	·5	1·6	4,537·5	5,
1894	354·4	77·0	·5	1·9	4,022·3	4,
1895	324·6	63·2	·7	1·2	3,901·0	4,
1896	300·2	58·0	37·1	2·6	3,550·8	4,

It will be seen from the above table that, in spite of the gro population, there has been a marked diminution in the actual r of offenders during the last six years, the continuity of the fall broken only in 1892, when the number of people charged with c against the person and against property was higher than in When the returns are compared on the basis of population the in the proportion of offenders per 100,000 inhabitants is shown t been remarkably steady, the rate being 5,905·1 in 1891, 5,83 1892, 5,490 in 1893, 4,884·1 in 1894, 4,674·7 in 1895, and 4,2 1896. The figures relating to the individual classes of offen somewhat disturbed by those checks incidental to all progress, will be found that the rates for all classes of crimes have fallen course of the six years.

The following table gives a classification of the offences for summary convictions were obtained during 1896. Of every 1 males in the colony, 5,658 were summarily convicted; and of 100,000 females, 1,078 were similarly dealt with. The off which the females were found guilty were naturally less serio those committed by the males. During the year 1896, th persons convicted summarily of offences of a criminal only 450 were women. As the table shows, the number of ces against the person and against property with or without nce was 704 per 100,000 males and 75 per 100,000 females.

Offences.	Summary Convictions.			Per 100,000 of Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
es against the person..............	1,702	150	1,852	247	25	144
es against property, with violence..	375	49	424	54	8	33
es against property, without violence	2,784	250	3,034	403	42	236
y and offences against the currency	2	1	3	....	....	....
es against good order..............	27,002	5,493	32,495	3,912	919	2,523
s not included in the preceding ..	7,187	498	7,685	1,041	83	597
Total	39,052	6,441	45,493	5,657	1,077	3,533

table affording a comparison between the punishments inflicted ummary conviction in the lower courts during the last ten years d be of great interest, but unfortunately the returns do not permit s compilation with the necessary degree of accuracy. There is ver, sufficiently reliable information to show that, although the ortion of persons sentenced to peremptory imprisonment was some- higher in 1894, 1895, and 1896 than in the three preceding years, slight extent a tendency has been evinced of late years to punish an der in other ways than that of consigning him to gaol without the n; while in the case of those persons who were given the option of g a fine or finding security, or of working their sentence out in it is also clear that during the last five years, doubtless owing to carcity of money, the proportion able to pay the fine has fallen, the proportion imprisoned in default risen. Below will be found a ment of the punishments inflicted on summary conviction in 1896:—

Offences.	Fines Paid.	Imprisoned in default.	Peremptorily Imprisoned	Bound over.	Other Punishments.	Total.
s against the person..............	1,063	424	343	16	6	1,852
s against property, with violence..	265	147	5	..	7	424
s against property, without violence	728	602	1,560	54	90	3,034
y and offences against the currency	....	......	2	1	....	3
s against good order..............	14,083	15,719	1,500	122	1,071	32,495
s not included in the preceding....	6,287	916	376	5	101	7,685
Total..................	22,426	17,808	3,786	198	1,275	45,493

As s above, the number of convicted persons sentenced
perem aprisonment was 3,786, and adding those incarcerated
defaul ing the fine or of finding security, viz., 17,808, the
numb soned was 21,594, out of 45,493 summarily convicted
the es, or 47·5 per cent. The number of fines paid was
but i able that some of those who were imprisoned in defaul
imme aying the fine imposed were discharged before the
had ex he amount having been paid in the meanwhile. The
sum receive by way of fines during 1896 was £19,313, of
amount £11 27 was paid into the Consolidated Revenue, £5,213
given to the Police Reward Fund, and £3,073 was paid to the Tr
Commissioners, benevolent institutions, municipalities, and infor
The amount of ring each year since 1887 is
below. With t mounts for the years 1895 and
the sums are exclusiv ewards paid to informers and of fines
to municipalities and ot corpor e bodies :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1887	23,407	1892	24,450
1888	22,623	1893	21,934
1889	20,432	1894	17,915
1890	20,596	1895	22,011
1891	25,955	1896	19,313

Under the Criminal Law Amendment Act (46 Vic. No
provision has been made for whipping as an additional punis
chiefly for wanton and unprovoked assault and for indecent ex
The Bench must consist, in the metropolitan district, of two Stipe
Magistrates; and in the country districts, of a Stipendiary or
Magistrate and one or more Justices of the Peace. In no ca
whipping added to a sentence of imprisonment passed in a magi
court during the year 1896.

The First Offenders' Probation Act of 1894 (57 Vic. No. 23
taining provisions similar to those which have proved of so much
in the treatment of crime in older countries, came into op
on the 1st June. Under this enactment a youthful offende
has been convicted of an offence committed under sudden tem
may be given an opportunity of showing by his future conduct
aberration was only temporary, and with this object in view
vention of contamination by gaol associations is provided for. Th
whose case is dealt with in this manner by the presiding magistrat
is not required to serve the sentence passed upon him, but is
on entering into a recognizance, with or without suretie
behaviour during the period over which his sentenc

tionary term, however, being not less than one year in every case. e he is permitted to depart from custody he is examined for identification, and during the period covered by his sentence ist report himself to the police every three months. If he should o do so, or should again lapse into crime, he may be arrested and itted to gaol for that portion of his sentence which is still to run; hould his behaviour be good throughout the whole of the proba- ry period he is not regarded as having been convicted, and if at ime later on he is arrested for another offence a previous conviction ot be put in against him. During the year 1896, 69 persons narily convicted were released under the provisions of the First ders' Probation Act, and in the table showing the punishments ted these persons have been included under the heading of und Over." In one or two cases an offender so dealt with by the strate was unable to find sureties, and in default had to go to n.

comparison of the persons convicted in courts of summary jurisdic- during the last six years is afforded by the table given below. For ears 1894, 1895, and 1896 the actual figures are given; for the ding years an estimate has been formed :—

Year.	Offenders against the person.		Offenders against property.		Other Offenders.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1891	2,525	220·8	3,055	267·1	45,186	3,952·3
1892	2,838	240·2	3,668	310·4	44,828	3,794·2
1893	2,558	211·3	3,484	287·8	43,972	3,632·5
1894	2,083	168·3	3,474	280·7	40,653	3,285·3
1895	1,863	147·4	3,417	270·3	41,614	3,291·6
1896	1,852	143·8	3,458	268·5	40,183	3,120·4

e foregoing figures show that during the six years there has a marked diminution in the number of summary convictions by strates, as well as in the rate per 100,000 of population—and that, n face of the constant passing of new Acts, breaches of which are hable by fine, and the growing tendency to dispose of cases in the courts. Since the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrates in the opolitan district there has been a greater proportion of cases narily dealt with, while it is also noticeable that the proportion quittals and discharges has greatly fallen off. Prior to 1880, y be said that about 25 per cent. of the persons brought before strates were discharged, while in no year shown since 1885 was roportion more than 16·6 per cent. until 1895, when the figures ed 20·2. In 1896, however, the percentage of acquittals and discharges [illegible] clined to 17·1. The following table shows the prop of summ [illegible] onvictions by magistrates, of acquittals and discharge of com [illegible] to higher courts :—

Year.	Summary Convictions.	Acquittals and Discharges.	Committals to Higher Courts.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1870	69·0	24·7	6·3
1875	70·1	25·3	4·6
1880	76·9	18·4	4·7
1885	82·9	14·1	3·0
1890	80·4	16·0	3·6
1891	[illegible]	14·8	3·6
1892	[illegible]	16·6	3·1
1893	[illegible]	16·0	3·6
1894	[illegible]	13·1	4·0
1895	[illegible]	20·2	2·4
1896	[illegible]	17·1	2·4

APPREHENSIONS.

It has already been explained that the returns of the police are some overstated, and in order to obtain the actual number of persons a hended it is necessary to reduce the figures compiled by them. has therefore been done in the following table, showing the numb persons arrested during each of the last ten years, with the proportio 100,000 of population. For 1894, 1895, and 1896 the number of arr persons brought before magistrates has been taken, while for the ceding years the figures have been estimated by a process which le little doubt of their close approach to absolute accuracy. It will be that the rate per 100,000 inhabitants shows a satisfactory decline du the period, and that it is now only about three-fourths of the propo in 1887 :—

Year.	Arrests.		Year	Arrests.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.		Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1887	39,111	3,892	1892	40,445	3,423
1888	37,768	3,646	1893	38,562	3,186
1889	34,012	3,189	1894	36,044	2,913
1890	34,210	3,105	1895	36,939	[illegible]
1891	40,012	3,499	1896	36,642	

AGES OF OFFENDERS.

ages of persons arrested for various classes of offences during the 896 are given below. The returns of the police have been pronately reduced to the basis of the number of arrested persons ht before magistrates in the course of the year. It will be seen he most serious offences were charged against persons between the f 25 and 30, and that it was this age-group which yielded the t proportion of offenders of all kinds:—

Offences.	Ages.										Total Apprehensions.
	Under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 30.	30 and under 35.	35 and under 40.	40 and under 45.	45 and under 50.	50 and upwards.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
the person	1	20	120	307	593	342	258	195	112	164	2,112
property, with violence	4	16	57	81	151	94	58	39	27	50	577
property, without violence	33	308	564	513	1,182	641	498	343	190	342	4,614
and offences against the ency	..	..	12	9	20	9	14	14	4	5	87
good order, including kenness	5	47	946	2,514	5,364	4,477	4,056	3,427	2,593	4,899	28,328
luded in the preceding	38	126	105	125	225	96	85	47	33	44	924
Total	81	517	1,804	3,549	7,535	5,659	4,969	4,065	2,959	5,504	36,642

proportion of offences committed at different ages varies very from year to year. In the following table this proportion is for the year 1896:—

Ages.	Persons Apprehended.			Per 100,000 of mean population of each age group.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
10 years	63	18	81	35	10	23
rs and under 15	466	51	517	650	72	368
" 20	1,508	296	1,804	2,417	472	1,539
" 25	2,695	854	3,549	4,113	1,387	2,801
" 30	6,313	1,222	7,535	9,445	2,263	6,201
" 35	4,681	978	5,659	8,137	2,320	5,603
" 40	4,137	832	4,969	9,260	2,652	6,455
" 45	3,461	604	4,065	10,123	2,372	6,658
" 50	2,531	428	2,959	8,538	1,999	5,691
rs and upwards	4,838	666	5,504	6,413	1,285	4,239
Total	30,693	5,949	36,642	4,447	995	2,845

BIRTHPLACES OF OFFENDERS.

At the census of 1891 the persons born in New South Wale
65 per cent. of the total population ; while of the 36,642 m
females arrested during the year 1896, only 13,611, or 37·1 p
were born in the colony. These figures are not, however, to
by themselves as proving the law-abiding character of the nati
compared with the remainder of the community, as the bul
people under 20 years of age are by birth Australian, whi
largely predominate over females among the British and for
residents within the colony. With the steady increase in the
of those born within the boundaries of New South Wales, t
naturally been a corresponding increase in the proportion contri
them to the total number of apprehensions, the figures in 18
37·2 per cent. as against 30·1 per cent. in 1887 ; and, simil
proportion of arrests of persons born in other parts of Austra
risen in this colony from 6·2 per cent. to 10·9 per cent. in t
period ; while a decline in the proportion of persons of other th
tralian birth resident in New South Wales has been accompan
decrease in the proportion of apprehensions contributed by t
figures falling from 63·7 per cent. to 51·9 per cent. during the pas

But little can be gained by a comparison of offences with the
of persons of each nationality, as the bulk of the offences are co
by the adults, who comprise only one half of the native-born as
over 90 per cent. of the residents of certain other nationalities.
only the male offenders committed to gaol, and comparing th
the male population, the most law-abiding portion of the com
are the much-abused Chinese, who show 911 convictions per 1
Next come the South Australians, with 1,429 per 100,000 : t
English, with 1,683 ; the Germans, with 1,778 ; the Italians, wit
the Russians, with 1,878 ; the native-born inhabitants of Ne
Wales, with 1,898 ; the Scotch, with 2,119 ; the Victorians, wit
the Tasmanians, with 2,493 ; the Irish, with 2,579 ; the
with 3,024 ; the Western Australians, with 3,191 ; the New Zea
with 3,341 ; the French, with 4,214 ; the Swedes and Nor
with 5,884 ; the Queenslanders, with 5,893 ; and the natives
United States, with 6,626. Even these figures, though deduc
proper data, require some explanation. The offenders belong
the United States and to Scandinavia are for the most part
whose offences should not be charged against the general popu
some of the French are recidivistes from New Caledonia ; and,
it may be said that the offences do not arise from the nation
the offender, but from his ignorance, his poverty, or his enviro
In connection with this subject, it may be remarked that na
countries which show a low average of comparative criminality
in the colony a rate of apparent lawlessness difficult to und

he supposition that a freer life and a larger remuneration have lormant tendencies which otherwise would not have developed. ve countries of all persons arrested in 1896 will be found in ng table :—

irthplaces.	Offences.						Total Apprehensions.
	Against the person.	Against property, with violence.	Against property, without violence.	Forgery and offences against the currency.	Against good order.	Not included in the preceding.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
les	967	267	2,268	28	9,681	400	13,611
	153	37	319	13	1,515	33	2,070
	29	15	117	2	278	7	448
a	27	7	62	....	369	16	481
sian Colonies	56	19	142	1	762	19	999
	301	81	726	19	5,384	156	6,667
	89	26	181	6	2,140	52	2,494
	254	75	378	6	5,970	85	6,768
ossessions	39	10	68	2	361	16	496
	16	8	42	3	150	14	228
	37	6	76	1	315	20	455
	21	5	43	....	145	14	228
Countries	123	26	192	6	1,258	92	1,697
	2,112	577	4,614	87	28,328	924	36,642

RELIGION OF OFFENDERS.

inal religious profession of each person arrested is ascertained d in the charge-sheet. During 1896 the arrests of persons o each of the various denominations were :—

Religions.	Offences.						Total. Apprehensions.
	Against the person.	Against property, with violence.	Against property, without violence.	Forgery and offences against the currency.	Against good order.	Not included in the preceding.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
land	822	187	2,019	49	9,979	378	13,484
c	943	295	1,904	26	13,453	337	16,958
	142	33	334	10	2,645	66	3,230
	50	23	182	....	511	35	801
	8	1	19	....	66	5	99
	7	2	18	....	63	5	95
	44	8	47	....	559	55	713
r	3	....	15	....	18	2	38
	....	....	....	1	4	....	5
Denominations	7	3	5	....	79	3	97
	5	3	53	....	72	4	137
	11	1	7	....	26	7	52
	70	21	11	1	853	27	983
	2,112	577	4,614	87	28,328	924	36,642

It is found that no great reliance can be placed on the statem
many of the persons who are arrested as to the religious belief
they nominally profess, as in some instances offenders are found
returned themselves as of three or more different religions in the
of a year; but allowing for all such persons the foregoing may b
as a fair statement of the creeds adopted by offenders. The tabl
a large excess of Roman Catholic offenders; this denomination
about 25·5 per cent. of the population, while the proportion of
so returning themselves was 46·3 per cent. of the total offenders-
dition of things which has obtained for many years, and which
all probability been due to the lower social condition of the men
the Roman Catholic community.

EDUCATION OF OFFENDERS.

The degree of education of those who were arrested has al
obtained as far as possible. Four grades of education were f
adopted for classification purposes, but in consequence of the d
of defining the term "Superior Education" that classification h
abandoned, and as the amount of education possessed by perso
are said to be able to read only must be very slight, the dist
between this class and the completely illiterate has not been atte
The educational status of persons arrested during 1896 is
below :—

Offences.	Degree of Education.					
	Illiterate.			Read and Write.		
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Against the person	134	9	143	1,813	156	1,969
Against property, with violence	35	1	36	483	58	541
Against property, without violence	306	33	339	3,875	400	4,275
Forgery and offences against the currency	...	...	...	80	7	87
Against good order, including drunkenness	1,270	252	1,522	21,806	5,000	26,806
Not included in the preceding	81	5	86	810	28	838
Total	1,826	300	2,126	28,867	5,649	34,516

The proportion of persons of 20 years and upwards in the com
who are able to read and write is estimated to be about 91·2 per
while in 1896 the proportion of persons arrested who were so far ed

·2 per cent. From these figures a hasty conclusion might be drawn e progress of education has not been attended with that decrease ne which its friends confidently expected to follow in its train. must always be remembered that although the proportion of arrested who can read and write has much increased of late such increase is merely a proof of the spread of education, even st those whose environment offers inducements to the commission ne.

best proof of the effect of the spread of education on crime is the e decrease which has for many years been observable in the r of committals and convictions for serious offences. Although rect effect of the spread of enlightenment cannot be gauged by , there is ample evidence to warrant the assumption that educa- doing its work as an active leaven for good throughout the nity.

DRUNKENNESS.

ing 1896 the arrests for drunkenness, with and without disorderly t, numbered 18,883, or 51·5 per cent. of the total number of , as compared with 17,717 arrests, and a proportion of 47·9 per for the previous year. There were also 616 persons proceeded t by summons for this offence, as against 662 in 1895. The total r of cases of drunkenness dealt with by the police was, therefore, , as compared with 18,379 in the previous year. The total r of cases was higher than in 1894, as well as in 1895; but the of 1896 was slight, and may be attributable more to greater ency on the part of the police in the enforcement of the law than actual increase of intemperance. That this is a probable view case may be assumed from the fact that there has not been a ensurate increase in the amount of intoxicants consumed, as will be om the table on page 771. The following table shows the number sts and summons cases for drunkenness in the metropolitan and metropolitan districts:—

Cases of Drunkenness.	Metropolitan District.	Extra-Metropolitan District.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Apprehensions	12,392	6,491	18,883
Summons Cases	211	405	616
Total...........	12,603	6,896	19,499

Below will be found a statement showing the number of males and females apprehended and summoned in each police district for drunkenness during the year 1896:—

District.	Apprehended.			Summoned.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Metropolitan ...	8,039	3,133	11,172	152	44	196	8,191	3,177	[illegible]
Eastern.........	679	71	750	130	4	134	809	75	[illegible]
North-eastern ..	1,006	84	1,090	127	3	130	1,133	87	[illegible]
Northern	612	38	650	15	1	16	627	39	[illegible]
North-western ..	1,072	46	1,118	5	3	8	1,077	49	[illegible]
Bourke	376	11	387	....	....	....	376	11	[illegible]
Western	977	65	1,042	50	....	50	1,027	65	[illegible]
South-western ..	1,305	62	1,367	6	....	6	1,311	62	[illegible]
The Murray	762	21	783	38	....	38	800	21	[illegible]
Southern	483	41	524	37	1	38	520	42	[illegible]
Total	15,311	3,572	18,883	560	56	616	15,871	3,628	[illegible]

Persons arrested for drunkenness are chiefly residents of large towns, and it is only natural to expect that with an increase in the population of the towns there should be an increase in the apprehensions for drunkenness. A comparison of the arrests during each year since 1887 is given in the following table, and it is satisfactory to note that the decrease is not only in proportion to the population, but in the actual number. As hinted at on the previous page, however, much stress could not be laid upon the falling off in arrests if there were not other evidence of the decrease of drunkenness, as a word of instruction from the Inspector-General of Police could, according to its tenor, increase or decrease the number of persons apprehended on this charge; but the decline in arrests has been coincident with a marked decrease in the consumption of intoxicants, so that it may be fairly assumed that drunkenness is on the wane:—

Year.	Apprehensions for Drunkenness.			Summons Cases for Drunkenness.	Total Cases of Drunkenness.	Cases of Drunkenness per 100,000 of Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1887	16,275	3,338	19,613	1,331	20,944	2,084
1888	14.759	3,544	18,303	1,110	19,413	1,874
1889	12,600	3,330	15,930	914	16,844	1,579
1890	13,233	2,890	16,123	896	17,019	1,544
1891	15,638	3,454	19,092	1,013	20,105	1,758
1892	14,638	3,234	17,872	1,058	18,930	1,602
1893	13,694	3,397	17,091	718	17,809	1,471
1894	13,465	3,468	16,933	576	17,509	1,415
1895	14,108	3,609	17,717	662	18,379	1,453
1896	15,311	3,572	18,883	616	19,499	1,514

NOTE.—This Table has been amended since last issue.

The number of convictions obtained for drunkenness, with and without disorderly conduct, during the year 1896, was 19,385.

13 of these cases, or 30·0 per cent., the offence was committed ween 8 a.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. on Sunday; and in other 1,410 es, or 7·3 per cent. of the total, the offence was committed between m. on Sunday and 8 a.m. on Monday. The number of convictions tained for breaches of the Licensing Act during the year will be nd below. It will be borne in mind that hotels are required by to be closed on Sunday, although the licensees are allowed to sell lodgers and *bona fide* travellers. As the arrests on Sunday show, law is not greatly respected :—

Convictions for Selling—	Metropolis.	Country.	New South Wales.
Liquor on Sunday, and keeping premises open upon that day ...	118	86	204
During prohibited hours other than upon Sunday	25	56	81
Liquor without a license	12	37	49
Adulterated liquor	1	..	1
Total convictions obtained ...	156	179	335

n pages 805 and 806 are given the number of public-houses licensed he colony, and the number of Colonial wine licenses current during last few years.

he average consumption per inhabitant of spirits, wines, and mented liquors since 1887 is given in the following table; also the l quantity of all classes of intoxicants consumed, expressed in terms proof spirit. It will be seen that the consumption of intoxicants per abitant has declined during the period covered by the table, the ntity in 1896 being nearly 30 per cent. less than in the first year wn :—

Year.	Spirits.	Wines.	Beer.	Equivalent in Alcohol (proof).
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
1887	1·11	0·73	11·69	2·97
1888	1·10	0·76	11·01	2·88
1889	1·07	0·83	10·89	2·73
1890	1·09	0·73	10·63	2·68
1891	1·11	0·84	11·42	2·83
1892	1·00	0·86	10·91	2·67
1893	0·83	0·84	9·23	2·30
1894	0·77	0·79	8·97	2·17
1895	0·73	0·64	8·96	2·08
1896	0·73	0·61	9·14	2·10

If th ber of persons who render themselves liable to arres be fai ned to be in direct proportion to the amount of intox consu ecrease in consumption is necessarily a sign of incr sobri

Th on of the relative prevalence of drunkenness, as te by th er of persons arrested for that offence in the diffe colonies, has received no little attention, and it has been made to ap that New South Wales in this regard holds a bad pre-eminence total cases of drunkenness and the number per 100,000 of popula in the different colonies, for the year 1896, were as given below:—

Colony.	No of cases of drunkenness.	Per 100,000 of population.
New South Wal	19,499	1,514
Victoria	10,060	854
Queensland	6,105	1,309
South Australia	1,937	544
Western Australia......	3,491	2,919
Tasmania.................	658	402
New Zealand	4,916	696

During 1896 the cases unkenness in New South W exhibited an increase on t the previous year, which reach total of 18,379. In all the r colonies, with the exceptio Victoria, there was likewise an increase, not only in the a number of cases, but also in comparison with the populatoin. comparing the drunkenness returns of the various colonies, it be pointed out that an argument founded solely on the num of cases of drunkenness is misleading, for a great deal dep upon the state of the law and the manner in which it is administe The extent of the area supervised must also be taken into considerat for it is evident that the law will be less strictly enforced in the spar settled districts of Queensland, South Australia, and Western Austr than in the more thickly populated parts of Australia. The quantit intoxicants consumed per head of the community is, perhaps, a be guide, though not always a safe indication, unless the manners customs of the people are also considered; but where the habit communities are so similar as is the case in regard to the Australa colonies, the consumption per head is a tolerably fair test. figures for the year 1896 given in the chapter on "Food Supp may be taken as correct, with some slight hesitation as reg those relating to the consumption of beer in the colonies wher excise duty was enforced, viz., in Queensland and Western Au As the table stands, the average consumption of alcohol of proof sp per inhabitant is shown to be 2·10 gallons in New South 2·62 in Victoria; 2·69 in Queensland; 2·18 in South Australia in Western Australia; 1·34 in Tasmania; and 1·60 gallons Zealand; the average for Australasia being 2·29 gallons. The alcohol consumed is greatest in Western Australia and Que in New South Wales it is somewhat below the average f

ard to Western Australia, in dealing with the consumption of
ants the circumstance that the males largely exceed the females
ot be neglected. If a comparison were made as to the consumption
ad, excluding females, the case against Western Australia would
materially altered. The figures given, however, at once dispose of
ory so persistently put forward as to the excessive prevalence of
nness in New South Wales, and the more effectually when it is
n mind that the number of males engaged in manual labour is far
here than in most of the colonies with a more favourable record.
e is one notable fact worth recording in connection with this
. Out of 18,883 arrests for drunkenness in New South Wales in
here were only 5,766 persons born in the colony as compared
3,117 persons born outside its boundaries. The arrests for
nness amongst the native-born were only in the ratio of 1 in 46
adult population, as compared with 1 in 29 of the rest of the
ommunity. It may, therefore, be considered as well established
e Australian native is not given over to the vice of drunkenness.

INQUESTS.

ll cases of violent or unnatural death, death resulting from
t, sudden death, death in a gaol, a lockup, or a hospital;
, or death resulting from execution, it is the duty of the Coroner
district to hold an inquiry into the cause if he has reasonable
s for believing that death was due to violence or other unnatural
and for that purpose he is empowered to order the exhumation
dy if necessary, to summon jurors and witnesses, and to commit
l a person found guilty by the jury of the crime of manslaughter
der. Every death which takes place in gaol must be investigated.
strict where no coroner has been appointed, or the officer is unable
the usual inquest, a magistrate may hold an inquiry; but owing
fact that he is not empowered to commit a suspected person for
e must terminate the inquiry in all cases where facts are dis-
which point to the criminality of a person, and direct the police
ecute at the nearest police court. The numbers of deaths during
he causes of which were investigated by Coroners or Magistrates,
036 of males and 241 of females, giving a total of 1,277 inquests
gisterial inquiries. The finding of the courts in 340 cases was
ath was due to disease, and in 800 cases to violence, while the
f death in 137 cases was not clearly defined.

provided by Act 24 Vic. No. 10 that when any real or personal
y has been destroyed or damaged by fire, the Coroner exercising
tion in the district where the outbreak has occurred shall, if he
r the case to be a fit one for investigation, hold an inquiry with
ect of ascertaining the origin of the fire. The procedure is
to that followed in inquests held in connection with cases of death.
roner can, in accordance with the decision of his jury, commit a
for trial on a charge of arson. There are a Coroner and a Deputy-

Coroner for Sydney, and 133 Coroners for the country districts, as well as one for the colony generally. Inquiries were held during 1896 into the origin of 120 fires, and the verdict returned was one of accident in 5 cases, of arson in 24, of insufficient evidence in 90 cases, while in one case no verdict was returned.

SUPERIOR COURTS.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

A Judge of the Supreme Court presides over the Central Criminal Court of Gaol Delivery held at Sydney. All prisoners are tried by a jury of twelve, chosen by lot from the panel provided by the Sheriff. In capital cases the right to challenge, both by the Crown and by the accused, is limited, except for cause shown, to twenty jurors; and in cases other than those in which the sentence of death may be imposed, whether felonies or misdemeanours, the number challenged cannot exceed eight. Under Act 55 Vic. No. 5, which was assented to in December, 1891, a person accused of an indictable offence is privileged, but not compelled, to give evidence in his own behalf. Prior to the passing of this Act such a privilege was only granted to those charged with bigamy. At the close of the case for the prosecution an accused person may also make a statement in his defence without rendering himself liable to examination thereupon, either by counsel for the Crown or by the Court. The verdict of the jury must be unanimous, for even if eleven jurors were agreed their verdict could not be accepted. If the jury disagree in the first instance they may be locked up until they either come to a verdict or are discharged by the Court. If no verdict is returned the prisoner is liable to be tried again by another jury.

In addition to the supreme, civil, and criminal sittings of the Court held in Sydney, the Judges go on circuit once in each half-year, and hold Courts of Gaol Delivery, called Circuit Courts, for dealing with the more serious class of criminal cases, especially those in which the capital penalty is involved, and for hearing civil causes at certain circuit towns, viz.:—In the north, at Maitland, Tamworth, Armidale, and Grafton; in the west, at Mudgee, Bathurst, Dubbo, and Broken Hill; and in the south, at Goulburn, Yass, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Deniliquin, Young, and Hay.

The Courts of Quarter Sessions are presided over by Chairmen, who also perform the duties of Judges of the District Courts. There are seven Chairmen of Quarter Sessions; two of these preside over the Courts in the Metropolitan and Suburban and Hunter Districts, and one each in the following districts:—Southern, south-western, northern, north-western, and western. All offences except those involving the capital penalty are within the jurisdiction of the Court. On the trial of prisoners at Quarter Sessions, the Chairman, at the request of the prisoner's counsel, must reserve questions of law for the consideration of the Supreme Court, or he may so act *motu proprio*.

During the year 1896 there were 1,274 males and 94 females committed for trial in the Superior Courts of the colony. Of the 1,368 persons, 1,334 were committed by magistrates, before whom they ght up at Petty Sessions ; 32 by coroners, 16 being accused 0 of manslaughter, and 6 of arson. There were also mitted for perjury by Judges of the District Court. The ersons committed during any one year does not neces- le with the number placed on trial during the same me persons committed at the end of one year do not make nce until the following year. Excluding those against ttorney-General filed no bill, there were 1,368 persons the returns of the Superior Courts of the colony during eing males and 94 females. The following table shows n which these accused persons were dealt with :—

dealt with.	Central Criminal and Circuit Courts.		Courts of Quarter Sessions.		All Superior Courts.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
l	151	8	660	36	811	44
nder First Offenders'	11	1	10	2	21	3
....	90	11	292	32	382	43
....	5	...	...	...	5	...
....	...	1	17	...	17	1
....	...	...	1	...	1	...
against	2	...	35	3	37	3
persons	259	21	1,015	73	1,274	94

these accused persons according to the nature of the which they were charged, it will be found that, both in males and of females, offences against property without he most numerous, followed by offences against the person against property with violence, the latter, however, with les only. Forgery and offences against the currency furnish hest rate of males ; the number of female offenders being nst 84 male offenders. Below will be found a statement s of which the 1,368 persons dealt with in superior courts were accused, with the rates per 100,000 of population :—

ffences.	Males.		Females.		Persons.	
	Number	Per 100,000 of population.	Number	Per 100,000 of population.	Number	Per 100,000 of population.
e person	305	44·2	27	4·5	332	25·8
roperty with violence ..	193	28·0	..	..	193	15·0
roperty without violence	569	82·4	50	8·4	619	48·0
es against the currency	84	12·2	4	0·7	88	6·8
od order	42	6·1	4	0·7	46	3·6
led in preceding	81	11·7	9	1·5	90	7·0
l	1,274	184·6	94	15·8	1,368	106·2

The following statement shows the character of the principal c
for which prisoners were tried during each year since 1887, and
material for interesting study. Cases which from various caus
not proceeded with are included under the heading of "Other Of
in the table; while since 1892 the returns have allowed of the
sion of those persons against whom the Attorney-General fou
bill:—

Offences.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Murder	11	22	18	9	17	7	15	18
Attempted murder	7	9	9	8	7	6	7	4
Manslaughter	7	22	16	25	25	19	28	19
Wounding maliciously, unlawfully.	86	109	65	118	116	111	121	119
Rape, and attempts to commit	7	16	12	14	21	18	14	14
Assaults on children	32	28	27	24	16	26	18	8
Indecent assaults	26	28	23	35	43	48	40	30
Unnatural offences	18	13	10	35	20	29	15	12
Arson	10	15	23	21	22	21	17	38
Robbery with violence, including garrotting.	60	47	79	47	39	40	50	50
Larceny and receiving stolen property.	225	186	267	237	263	261	228	279
Stealing in a dwelling, including burglary.	115	178	166	91	84	154	78	85
Forgery and uttering	95	114	109	87	89	147	70	81
Stealing from the person	44	54	70	56	61	44	27	50
Obtaining money, etc., under false pretences.	96	70	87	94	73	57	62	48
Embezzlement	38	47	38	25	60	48	24	22
Horse-stealing	76	70	71	74	50	40	63	54
Cattle-stealing	26	22	25	26	35	19	15	17
Sheep-stealing	18	19	20	19	4	14	28	16
Perjury	7	21	15	9	14	46	31	3
Other offences	498	457	430	500	516	434	351	378
Total Committals	1,502	1,547	1,575	1,554	1,575	1,589	1,336	1,342

NOTE.—This table has been amended since last issue.

The scope of this work does not admit of the particulars of c
being set out in great detail, but if the returns be analysed it
found that, as experience has shown elsewhere, the seasons l
marked effect upon conduct; besides this, however, there is app
a periodicity in crimes sufficiently curious to afford food for spec
Perhaps the strongest examples of this periodicity are in con
with crimes of blood, *i.e.*, those of murder, manslaughte
maliciously wounding; and with crimes against females, and un
offences.

GAOLS.

There are in New South Wales 59 gaols of all kinds; of
are principal gaols, 15 minor gaols, and 36 police gaols. T
accommodation for 1,849 prisoners in separate cells, and for
when more than one prisoner sleeps in a cell, exclusive of the
modation afforded by 22 separate cells in the lunatic ward of Parr

and of that for 108 prisoners in the "associated huts" at Bay Prison. On the 31st December, 1896, there were 2,354 ers, exclusive of debtors, in confinement, thus distributed:—

Prisons.	Prisoners.	Accommodation—one prisoner per cell.	Accommodation—more than one prisoner per cell.
Principal gaols	1,855	1,373	3,727
Minor gaols	338	269	943
Police gaols	161	207	733
Total	2,354	1,849	5,403

total number of prisoners received under sentence into the various hroughout the colony during the year 1896 was 14,285, exclusive tors. Of these, 7,083 were received at Darlinghurst Gaol, and at Biloela Gaol, Sydney. The following table gives the number oners received into gaol under sentence for the last ten years:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1887	11,554	3,728	15,282
1888	10,519	3,712	14,231
1889	9,299	3,583	12,882
1890	9,203	3,084	12,287
1891	9,553	3,257	12,810
1892	10,677	3,106	13,783
1893	10,704	3,149	13,853
1894	10,436	3,100	13,536
1895	10,472	3,130	13,602
1896	11,224	3,061	14,285

may with confidence be asserted that the number of persons ed into gaols, as compared with population, is greatly decreasing; l, the actual number was less in 1896 than ten years previously. average number of persons in confinement during the year has een ascertained, but the number in detention at the close of each s known, and the figures for ten years will be found in the following ent. Taking one year with another, these figures may be accepted rly representing the average daily number for each year given. ers have been classified under two heads—those under sentence, and those [illegible]aiting trial. Debtors are excluded, except in 1887 returns for [illegible]hich year do not allow of the distinction being made

Year.	In confinement.			Under sentence.	Awaiting trial.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1887	2,053	327	2,380	2,235	145
1888	2,035	309	2,344	2,223	121
1889	2,036	322	2,358	2,233	125
1890	2,138	281	2,419	2,290	129
1891	2,325	291	2,616	2,489	127
1892	2,345	268	2,613	2,484	129
1893	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,440	2,295	145
1894	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,602	2,469	133
1895	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,497	2,345	152
1896	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,354	2,216	138

As in the [illegible] he largest number of prisoner any age-peric [illegible] es range from 25 to 30 years, proportionatel [illegible] s age-group is also most prolu of criminals, v [illegible] 2, [illegible] inhabitants; followed by 35 t years, with 2,602; 40 to 45 years, with 2,512; and 30 to 35 years, 2,407 per 100,000 of population. The following table gives the nu and ages of persons sentenced to penal servitude, labour, or impri ment during the year 1896. Three of the prisoners sentenced to de including 2 males and 1 female, had the sentence commuted:—

Ages.	To Death.		To Penal Servitude.		To Imprisonment.						Total Prison Sentenced	
					With Labour.			Without Labour.				
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
7 and under 15	..	..	..	..	8	..	8	45	..	45	53	..
15 ,, 20	2	..	6	1	281	51	332	425	76	501	714	129
20 ,, 25	..	..	12	..	448	135	583	517	261	778	977	[illegible]
25 ,, 30	..	..	38	..	1,274	199	1,473	1,377	395	1,772	2,689	594
30 ,, 35	..	..	23	..	684	166	850	1,041	414	1,455	1,748	580
35 ,, 40	..	..	19	3	535	125	660	909	329	1,238	1,463	457
40 ,, 45	1	1	12	..	361	95	456	736	248	984	1,110	344
45 ,, 50	..	..	2	..	276	68	344	564	186	750	842	254
50 ,, 55	..	..	4	..	190	43	233	391	112	503	585	[illegible]
55 ,, 60	..	..	2	..	110	17	127	268	31	299	380	48
60 and over	..	..	7	..	230	17	247	426	88	514	663	105
Total	3	1	125	4	4,397	916	5,313	6,699	2,140	8,839	11,224	[illegible]

Taking the returns from all the gaols, it will be found that 9,72 tinct persons were convicted during the year 1896, of wh males, and 1,288 were females. The following table ıps, the number of distinct persons of the male sex who were convicted ı and more than once during 1896, any convictions they may have ergone in previous years being disregarded. In the figures given returns from all the gaols have been combined, and each person ited with the total number of sentences received, whether served in prison or in more than one.

Ages.	Males Convicted during 1896, with Ages and Number of Times Convicted.															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	6	18	26	Total.
and under 4	1	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	1
,, 6	1	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	1
,, 9	1	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	1
,, 10	6	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	6
,, 11	8	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	8
,, 12	4	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	4
,, 13	11	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..		..	11
,, 14	15	..	1		..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..		..	16
,, 15	20	1	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..		..	21
,, 16	44	1	..		..	1	..	..	..	..	..		..		..	46
,, 17	62	12	2		..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..		..	77
,, 18	93	12	10		1	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	120
,, 19	132	19	4		..	1	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	158
,, 20	140	20	7	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	171
,, 21	114	23	3		..	1	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	141
,, 25	527	82	24	6	1	..	..	1	1	..	..		..	..	..	642
,, 30	1,530	325	90	29	11	4	..	1	..	1	1		..	..	..	1,993
,, 35	1,010	188	50	19	13	2	4	..	2	..	1		1	..	..	1,290
,, 40	880	151	35	14	8	4	6	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	.	1,101
,, 45	675	104	31	17	5	4	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	839
,, 50	461	88	19	7	7	2	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	591
,, 55	336	53	18	9	2	4	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	426
,, 60	228	31	14	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	283
,, 65	186	41	2	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
,, 70	110	18	10	5	2	2	1	1	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	149
,, 75	58	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
,, 80	27	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	34
and upwards	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total	6,685	1,179	328	125	54	28	16	6	3	3	6	3	3	1	1	8,436

hese figures disclose some interesting facts. It is sad to see that the e number of 115 boys of 15 years and less had to be sent to gaol; it is well known that the problem of dealing with juvenile offenders ne of the most serious and embarrassing that the magistrates have cope with, especially as, until the month of August of the year 5, there was no Reformatory in the colony to which boys of the ninal class could be sent. In the absence of such an institution, the gistrates, unwilling to subject boys of tender age to the contaminating uences of a gaol, generally ignored the criminal charges and sent m to the nautical school-ship Sobraon as deserted or neglected dren. This, though the lesser of two evils, was manifestly unfair he class of children for whom the Sobraon was primarily intended, largely increased the difficulties of its management. Some few rs ago extensive buildings were erected at Rookwood for the accomlation of criminal boys, but they were put to other uses. The

Carpenteri Reformatory has now been established for boys w been conv ed of criminal offences. Particulars of the Institu given und Education and Social Condition and Charities.

A remarkable feature of the foregoing table is the large numbe sons sent to gaol more than once during the year. The prison two or more convictions numbered 1,751, while their convictio 4,679. The list of second convictions commences with a boy of and ends with a man who had passed his eightieth year; the th victions are headed by a lad of 13, and so on, as the list show man, whose age was between 45 and 50 years, was convicted than 26 times, and 18 convictions were recorded against another in the same age-group during the year. The number of males u years of age sent to g and of these 130 were convict than once.

There were 1,288 fe i oned during the year 1896, o the large proportion of 8 per cent., were convicted m once. The convictions of g u er 21 years of age numbered of these 42 were imprisoned more than once. One woman was c as many as 30 times during h ear, one had 25 convictions r against her, another was co 24 times, and two were conv times during the year. T following table shows the nu females imprisoned, their ages, and number of convictions du year:—

Ages.	Females Convicted during 1896, with Ages and Number of Times Co																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20	24	2
5 and under 6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
7 ,, 8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
8 ,, 9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
10 ,, 11	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
11 ,, 12	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
12 ,, 13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
13 ,, 14	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
14 ,, 15	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
15 ,, 16	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
16 ,, 17	5	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
17 ,, 18	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
18 ,, 19	12	8	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
19 ,, 20	10	8	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
20 ,, 21	14	4	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
21 ,, 25	104	25	13	9	2	4	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
25 ,, 30	123	33	23	10	7	1	5	4	7	1	..	3	1	..	..	1	2	..	1	..
30 ,, 35	115	35	21	9	9	7	4	3	4	2	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
35 ,, 40	107	31	17	8	2	7	3	6	1	..	2	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
40 ,, 45	91	20	12	8	7	3	..	3	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45 ,, 50	54	13	9	8	5	..	..	2	3	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
50 ,, 55	43	12	4	..	..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
55 ,, 60	16	7	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
60 ,, 65	17	3	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 ,, 70	6	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
70 ,, 75	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
75 ,, 80	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
80 and upwards	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	749	203	119	57	34	29	16	20	18	6	8	8	6	4	2	1				

The Shaftesbury Reformatory, situated near the south head of Port ckson, was established for the reception of girls under 16 years of age o had fallen into crime, and at the end of 1896 there were 15 children the institution for reformatory purposes.

The persons who figure in the two preceding tables as having been nvicted several times during the year are the drunkards, the vagrants, d the petty thieves. Naturally the more serious offenders are rarely orded an opportunity of appearing before the Courts twice in one ar.

The punishments awarded to offenders vary from nominal imprison- ent to the supreme penalty of death. Prisoners under sentence of rd labour are, after examination by the medical officer, given such rk as the prison authorities consider comes within the meaning of the tence. Penal servitude is not awarded for a shorter term than three ars. In the case of male prisoners it is taken to mean hard labour the roads or other public works, and in the case of female prisoners, rd labour in gaol. The punishment is practically the same as hard our. Prisoners undergoing a sentence of imprisonment without our are treated differently from others, and if they entirely maintain clothe themselves they are exempted from any work, otherwise they tribute to their own support by performing such labour as may be vided. Under section 405 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act risoner who has been convicted of a felony attended with violence to person, or committed by the offender when armed, or by means of threat, is liable to be kept in irons for a portion of his term of risonment, but not extending beyond the first three years.

The effect of punishment in reforming criminals, or in restraining m from the commission of crime, is a subject upon which a great l has been written. It is certain that in New South Wales there been a great decrease in crime, but it seems equally certain that s satisfactory state of things is due to an improvement in the terial and intellectual condition of the whole community, and not to deterrent effect which punishment has had upon the criminal.

A summary of sentences imposed upon offenders affords little clue to gravity of the offences committed. Thus, for simple larceny the tences of imprisonment ranged from 2 days to 5 years; for common ault, from 2 days to 1 year; for maliciously injuring property, from ays to 2 years; for receiving stolen property, from 1 month to 10 rs; for begging alms, from 2 days to 1 month; and for perjury, from onths to 5 years. The great anomaly disclosed by these sentences ht disappear if the circumstances attending each individual case e considered, but the scope of this work only admits of the facts in ard to the sentences themselves being recorded.

The following summaries give a classification for 1896, according to length of the sentences and the nature of the offences; the two pre- es tables show the number of distinct persons sentenced, while the figures in [illegible] two following statements refer to the number of punished, [illegible] same person in some instances having been several ti[illegible] in the course of the year :—

Offences.	Total Offences.	Imprisonment for								
		2 days and under.	3 days and under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 6.	6 months and under 12.	1 year and under 2.	2 years and under 5.	5 years & under 10.	10 years & under 1
Offences against the person	904	10	6	273	441	61	36	47	22	
Offences against property with violence	281	3	2	89	94	14	30	33	16	
Offences against property without violence	2,358	26	11	499	1,198	379	108	104	31	
Forgery and offences against the currency	80	...	...	...	5	16	29	24	3	
Offences against good order	[illegible]	[illegible]	,147	2,566	1,313	131	4	2	...	
Offences not included in the preceding	969	83	102	433	216	22	40	9	3	
Total offences committed by males	11,224	1,591	1,268	3,860	3,267	623	247	219	75	

It will be seen that the sentence of death was passed on three In one case only was it carried out, and in the other two cases it w muted to imprisonment for life. In each case the prisoners were c with murder. Of the persons included in the column "Until complied with, etc.," 61 were wife and child deserters against there were unsatisfied maintenance orders, and the remaining was ordered to be imprisoned during the pleasure of the Co contempt.

The classification of sentences according to their length a nature of the offences for which females suffered imprisonment i is given below. In 26 cases only, out of 3,061, was the l sentence one year or over. Sentence of death was passed in one only on a charge of murder, but it was commuted t for life. The terms for which women are senten ter than those of men, as their offences, generally speaking, are ch lighter:—

Offences.	Total Offences.	Length of Sentences.							
		2 days and under.	8 days and under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 6.	6 months and under 12.	1 year and under 2.	2 years and under 5.	Death.
nces against the person ...	51	4	1	20	16	3	5	1	1
nces against property with olence	35	...	...	29	6	...	...	...	...
nces against property ithout violence	185	...	1	62	81	26	7	8	..
gery and offences against e currency	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
nces against good order ...	2,762	337	384	1,374	590	76	1	...	...
nces not included in e preceding	25	3	7	6	6	...	1	2	...
otal offences committed by females	3,061	344	393	1,491	699	107	15	11	1

Allusion has already been made to the number of persons with more n one conviction recorded against them during 1896. It is interesting ompare these figures with the records of previous years, which are en below as far back as 1889, beyond which year the statistics of onvictions are not entirely reliable. The table also gives a state- nt of the average number of offences committed by each person fined:—

Year.	Prisoners sent to Gaol more than once.		Offences Committed.		Average number of Offences Committed.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1889	1,224	663	3,126	2,539	2·6	3·8
1890	1,196	565	3,165	2,201	2·7	3·9
1891	1,285	584	3,431	2,457	2·7	4·2
1892	1,787	586	4,828	2,326	2·7	4·0
1893	1,642	567	4,141	2,328	2·5	4·1
1894	1,572	576	4,093	2,331	2·6	4·0
1895	1,573	577	4,249	2,338	2·7	4·1
1836	1,751	539	4,679	2,363	2·7	4·4

From the evidence of the above table there would appear to be a stant reappearance of the same faces before the Courts to account so high an average of reconvictions. The proportion of habitual offe[illegible] those with previous convictions may be so ter rem[illegible] and will perhaps be better illustrated by the fol table th[illegible] the one just given. The returns only include conv within [illegible] year named, convictions in a previous year bei regarded. [illegible] all convictions had been included, the proportion f would, in al[illegible] likelihood, have been about 28 per cent. :—

Year.	Percentage of prisoners with previous convictions.	Year.	Percentage of prisoners with previous convictions.
1887	25·4	1892	26·4
1888	25·3	1893	23·6
1889	[illegible]	1894	23·3
1890	[illegible]	1895	23·5
1891	2[illegible]	1896	23·5

It is to be regretted that at present it is impossible to giv information concerning prisoners with previous convictions t recorded in the previous table an[illegible]n page 796 ; but for future is this book statistics of this kind [illegible]ill be available. The Intern Union for Criminal Legislation, for the purpose of strengthening in its defence against "the enemy," recommends the introductio elaborate system under [illegible] tice of every conviction for shall be sent by the po[illegible] e office in which the birth convicted person was registered, so that the Registrar of the may be enabled to keep a record of the career of a crimina birth to death. Apart, however, from the costliness of the syste times are not yet ripe for such an innovation ; and even if i adopted, it would be several years before results of any val statistical purposes could be obtained.

The number of distinct persons committed to gaol under se during each of the past ten years is given in the following table. number fluctuated considerably during the period under revie there is ample evidence in this table, taken in conjunction with t page 776, showing the trials in the superior courts, that crime is diminishing :—

Year.	Persons.	Year.	Persons.
1887	9,046	1892	8,967
1888	10,096	1893	9,369
1889	8,827	1894	9,215
1890	7,939	1895	9,165
1891	8,791	1896	9,7[illegible]

r Act 4 Vic. 29 a Visiting Justice is appointed to visit each He is empowered to hear and determine all complaints which made against a prisoner of disobeying the rules of the gaol, or g committed any offence, and may pass a sentence of confine- a solitary cell for a term not exceeding seven days. In cases istent insubordination, a charge upheld before two or more of the Peace renders the prisoner liable to a sentence of close nent for one month; and if the culprit is a prisoner convicted y, or serving a sentence of hard labour, a punishment of personal on may be awarded. Two sentences of whipping were carried 1896. The number of punishments inflicted upon refractory s during the last ten years is given as follows:—

Year.	Prisoners punished in gaols.			Percentage of total prisoners punished.
	Solitary confinement.	Other punishments.	Total.	
1887	1,445	416	1,861	10·5
1888	1,302	246	1,548	9·3
1889	1,195	331	1,526	10·0
1890	1,458	266	1,724	11·8
1891	1,235	304	1,539	10·1
1892	1,412	317	1,729	10·5
1893	1,053	234	1,287	10·9
1894	982	300	1,282	11·0
1895	1,077	228	1,305	11·1
1896	924	247	1,171	12·2

were 54 persons—52 males and 2 females—imprisoned for ring the year 1896. As the time of detention as a rule only d for a short period, the number of debtors in confinement at time was not large, and on the 31st December, 1896, there nly 3 persons in gaol for debt. The number of persons sent to r debt during each of the last ten years will be found in the g table:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	48	2	50	1892	54	...	54
	56	1	57	1893	55	3	58
	71	1	72	1894	54	4	58
	59	2	61	1895	70	4	74
	45	...	45	1896	52	2	54

ollowing table gives the number of the prisoners employed in the l and minor gaols at the end of 1896, and those engaged in the l callings. In some of the gaols there are no means of finding employment of a profitable or useful nature, otherwise the

number shown could be very much increased; and it mus
remembered that there are many prisoners whose services are
able for labour, such as those whose sentences do not carry har
and those exempt from work on account of medical and other
The net value of the labour done during 1896 amounted to
exclusive of the value set upon the labour of the prisoners en
the construction of the breakwater at Trial Bay, and of ordina
directly connected with the gaols.

Carpenters and assistants ...	42	Bookbinders..................	
Painters	14	Writers..........................	
Blacksmiths and assistants	26	Washing	
Tinsmiths........................	18	School assistants..............	
Masons	9	Hospital attendants	
Stonecutters and assis	[illegible]	Barbers...........................	
Labourers.........................	228	Needlework......................	
Brushmakers	10	Sweepers and cleaners	
Matmakers	63	Cooks' Assistants	
Shoemakers......................	99	Other employments	
Tailors	131		
Hatmakers	58	Total employed	

Among those classed as engaged in "other employme
included 74 prisoners working at the Trial Bay Breakwater.
under sentence of penal servitude, of hard labour on t
and public works, or of imprisonment with hard labour,
eligible for employment upon the public works at Trial Ba
under the following conditions:—Prisoners under sentence
three to five years, who have not been punished for mi
within the previous six months, and are favourably recomme
their gaolers, at a period twelve months before they would
eligible for discharge under the ordinary remission regulation
anticipation of such discharge; under sentence of five to ten ye
similar conditions as regards conduct, at a period of eightee
anterior to discharge; and under sentence of ten years and up
a period of two years anterior to discharge. The constructi
breakwater is being supervised by officers of the Public Works
ment, and the prisoners engaged in the work, who are entir
the control of the Comptroller-General of Prisons, receive a smal
money, and are supplied with rations, as well as with clothing
not of the prison pattern.

Besides the foregoing, there were at the close of the year
many as 343 prisoners who were not employed. The reasons
exemption will be found in the following statement :—

In hospitals	76	Recent arrivals, not set to work	
In cells	12	In transit	
Under medical treatment ...	28	Under separate treatment	
Exempt from work	9	Not under sentence (i[illegible] debtors)	
Prisoners' delegates............	16		
Keeping themselves...........	3		
Incapable	32	Total	

Persons whose cases have not yet been disposed of are allowed see their legal advisers and others who may visit them in reference to their trial. It is not required that they shall wear prison thing; and other privileges, consistent with safe custody, are anted to them. Persons under examination are not allowed to have y communication made to them while in the prison except by their gal advisers, unless such a proceeding is specially sanctioned by the stice conducting the examination.

By continuous good conduct and industry prisoners become eligible r a remission of sentence, in accordance with the following scale:— ntences not exceeding five years, one-sixth of the term; sentences yond five but not exceeding ten years, one-fifth of the term; d sentences of more than ten years, one-fourth of the term. risoners who are serving a sentence of not more than twelve onths, or who have had the death penalty commuted, do not enjoy se privileges; but the circumstances of their cases may be considered by the Minister for Justice, who has power to recommend to e Governor, either on his own responsibility or after consultan with his colleagues in Cabinet, the remission of part of such ntences.

Under section 409 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act a prisoner der sentence may be granted a written license to be at large within cified limits during the unexpired portion of his sentence. Sureties required, unless under exceptional circumstances, for good behaviour d observance of the conditions of the license. The prisoner who is rated is required to report himself periodically to the police, and is ble to have his license cancelled and to be committed to gaol to dergo the remainder of his sentence upon any breach of the condins upon which he was released. This system was first adopted in tember, 1891, and at the end of 1896 it had been put in force in cases—those of 89 males and 3 females. Of the 92 licenses issued, re were on December 31, 1896, 42 still in force, 35 had expired, and 13 cases the balance of the sentence had been remitted and the nse cancelled, while in only 2 cases was the license-holder returned to l to complete his sentence.

When the neglected state in which many of the prisoners are received considered, it may be said that the death-rate in gaols is light, and it ows, moreover, signs of decreasing. A comparison between the deathe in gaols and that of the general population it is difficult to make, but may be said generally that the death-rate of all persons received into ol is at present not greater than that of the general population of e ages, while the death-rate of habitual criminals is largely below the erage. In the following table the number of deaths, exclusive of se resulting from executions, is given for 1875 and subsequent riods, together with the death-rate per 1,000 of the average number prisoners in confinement during the year. This average has been

obtained for every year by taking the mean of the numbers in c
ment at the end of that year and at the end of the preceding yea

Year.	Deaths.			Death-rate per 1,000 persons in confinement.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1875	34	8	42	31·50
1880	37	...	37	18·85
1885	39	11	50	19·90
1890	24	2	26	10·84
1891	37	3	40	15·86
1892	36	4	40	15·27
1893	28	6	34	13·42
1894	22	2	24	9·49
1895	19	3	22	8·61
1896	28	2	30	12·35

Since 1893 returns have been obtained of the height of all
committed to gaol, and the following results, which relate to th
males incarcerated during 1896, are given merely as a curio
criminal statistics. No comparison with the general population
made, as no data for such a comparison exist :—

Height.	Age Groups.									
	Under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 30.	30 and under 35.	35 and under 40.	40 and under 45.	45 and under 50.	50 and under 55.	55 and under 60.
Under 4 ft. 6 in. ...	19	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 ft. 6 in.	6	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 ft. 7 in.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 ft. 8 in.	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 ft. 9 in.	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 ft. 10 in.	6	10	..	2	1	..	..	2	..	..
4 ft. 11 in.	3	8	2	2	4	2	..	..	1	..
5 ft.	2	21	4	18	12	5	4	5	8	4
5 ft. 1 in.	2	29	16	32	23	21	14	10	17	6
5 ft. 2 in.	..	44	33	54	42	30	45	30	12	14
5 ft. 3 in.	2	59	46	109	87	54	61	33	26	18
5 ft. 4 in.	3	81	89	175	109	109	71	64	57	22
5 ft. 5 in.	1	70	98	227	137	144	97	77	51	30
5 ft. 6 in.	..	71	138	336	192	154	139	84	62	49
5 ft. 7 in.	..	63	109	292	203	190	148	90	41	35
5 ft. 8 in.	..	44	103	265	167	143	100	74	57	34
5 ft. 9 in.	..	23	69	212	121	96	69	49	35	24
5 ft. 10 in.	..	13	38	123	87	71	43	32	21	13
5 ft. 11 in.	..	10	20	63	48	37	17	14	12	8
6 ft.	..	2	10	48	29	24	14	14	8	6
6 ft. 1 in.	..	2	3	12	13	8	4	2	5	1
6 ft. 2 in.	..	..	1	4	3	2	1	1	1	..
6 ft. 3 in.	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..
6 ft. 5 in.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
6 ft. 6 in.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	50	559	780	1,980	1,278	1,086	829	581	414	274

ilar return relating to the 1,237 females committed to gaol in e of the year 1896 shows the following results :—

	Age Groups.											Total.
	Under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 30.	30 and under 35.	35 and under 40.	40 and under 45.	45 and under 50.	50 and under 55.	55 and under 60.	60 and over.	
in. ..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	6
......	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
......	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
......	..	..	1	2	..	3	4	2	1	..	..	13
......	..	1	2	1	5	5	4	1	3	..	1	23
......	..	9	11	5	5	6	10	3	3	2	2	56
......	..	8	16	18	14	11	13	5	5	2	3	95
......	..	11	30	26	33	34	29	11	9	5	13	201
......	..	17	22	29	29	29	21	19	10	2	7	185
......	..	10	25	41	45	37	23	17	8	2	4	212
......	..	5	17	24	39	24	16	12	9	3	6	155
......	..	3	27	26	17	11	13	12	4	4	4	121
......	..	3	18	20	16	11	11	5	6	4	..	94
......	..	..	6	10	8	5	3	3	3	2	..	40
......	..	..	2	5	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	12
......	..	1	2	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	8
......	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	7
......	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
......	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
......	..	69	180	214	216	182	150	95	64	27	40	1,237

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

early days of settlement the spectacle of judicial executions re been extremely common. Offences which are now sum- alt with by magistrates, and deemed sufficiently punished by nent for two or three months, were in some cases punishable . This barbarous system lasted until about the year 1832, offences of stealing from a dwelling money or goods to the £5, and of killing or stealing horses, cattle, or sheep, were removed category of capital crimes. Five years later the punishment of de s abolished in the following cases :—Riotous destruct buildi l machinery, riotous assembling, rescue of a person co of mu educing a person in the Royal Navy from duty, incit mutiny, administering unlawful oaths purporting to bind the taking the same to commit any treason or murder, breaking escaping from lawful custody more than once, smuggling while shooting at any vessel, or maliciously shooting or maiming any of the Navy or Revenue Service. Executions have been less nume late years than formerly, the dread penalty being carried out in small proportion of cases wherein the death sentence has been pron The number of executions since 1825 is given herewith. In thre only have there been no executions. Four females have been during the period in qu

Year.	Con-victions.	Execu-tions.	Year.	on-tions.	Execu-tions.	Year.	Con-victions.
1825	54	9	1849	6	4	1873	10
1826	72	21	1850	5	4	1874	14
1827	93	29	1851	8	2	1875	8
1828	106	28	1852	10	5	1876	15
1829	112	52	1853	4	2	1877	9
1830	136	50	1854	11	6	1878	12
1831	143	32	1855	12	5*	1879	21
1832	156	12	1856	7	......	1880	21
1833	135	31	1857	9	4	1881	6
1834	148	44	1858	9	1	1882	14
1835	142	40	1859	10	7	1883	9
1836	79	26	1860	11	5*	1884	8
1837	90	12	1861	32	2	1885	11
1838	130	19	1862	18	6	1886	22
1839	53	22	1863	16	6	1887	4
1840	13	8	1864	5	2	1888	17
1841	27	18	1865	10	3	1889	4
1842	47	13	1866	20	6	1890	2
1843	22	8	1867	19	4	1891	6
1844	22	8*	1868	13	5	1892	4
1845	15	3	1869	6	......	1893	8
1846	11	1	1870	3	......	1894	8
1847	10	6	1871	11	3	1895	7
1848	6	5	1872	19	3	1896	4

* One female.

During the seventy-two years embraced in the table just give persons were sentenced to death, and of these, 1,736 were co during the first eighteen years. For the whole period the executio bered 642, of which 466 were carried out during the first eigh

A study of the statistics of judicial executions in New prior to the year 1842 will make it abundantly plain th system of taking life for insufficient cause, so far fro hearts of would-be criminals, had the effect of lowering the one of the whole community, and, therefore, of making some of bers more prone to commit the very offences which the punish-as intended to prevent. The death penalty is now awarded to attempt at murder, rape, attempt at rape, and setting fire to a g knowing that there is a person therein; it is, however, ly carried out for murder only. The following statement shows ber of convictions and executions for the offences named for a of twenty-six years:—

Year.	Murder and Attempt at Murder.		Rape.		Attempts at Rape. (Convictions.)
	Convictions.	Executions.	Convictions.	Executions.	
1871	9	3	2	......	2
1872	14	3	5	......	4
1873	9	4	1	......	3
1874	7	2	7	1	10
1875	7	1	1	1	4
1876	12	4	3	......	3
1877	4	2	5	......	......
1878	8	1	4	......	3
1879	16	......	5	1	3
1880	15	4	6	......	......
1881	3	1	3	1	6
1882	10	3	4	......	3
1883	8	1	1	......	3
1884	7	2	1	......	......
1885	9	3	2	......	......
1886	10	2	12	......	9
1887	3	......	1	4*	......
1888	15	2	2	......	......
1889	3	3	1	......	......
1890	2	1	1	......	1
1891	5	3	1	......	......
1892	6	1	1	......	......
1893	7	5	2	......	......
1894	6	5	1	......	......
1895	5	1	2	......	......
1896	4	1	......	......	......

* Mount Rennie case; convicted in 1886.

last execution for rape took place shortly after the close of the 386, when four youths were hanged. Since then, as shown by le just given, there have been only twelve capital convictions e and for an attempt to commit rape. It would be rash to hat the executions in 1887 have exercised a salutary effect upon disposed to commit this crime, for there has been no diminution number of persons committed for trial. With more reason it be assumed that juries are loth to convict for rape, knowing that s the penalty assigned by law as its punishment.

COST OF POLICE AND PRISON SERVICES.

The following table shows the amount expended in maint the police and prison services during the last five years, and al amount of fines paid into the Consolidated Revenue, and the net from prison labour :—

Expenditure and Revenue.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Expenditure—	£	£	£	£
Police	323,249	319,626	324.171	333,110*
Penal establishment	156,776	155,173	132,064	134,292
Total	480,025	474,799	456,235	467,402
Revenue—				
Fines	15,805	13,981	11,460	12,443
Net return from prison labour	23,400	22,941	22,469	21,817
Total	39,205	36,922	33,929	34,260
Net Expenditure	440,820	437,877	422,306	433,142
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Per Inhabitant	7 6	7 3	6 10	6 10

* Financial year, 1895–6. † Financial year, 1896-7.

It is to be understood that the value of prison labour set d the above table represents labour of a productive character only.

EXTRADITION.

There are two Imperial statutes in force in New South Wal the surrender of fugitive criminals, viz., the Extradition Act of and the Fugitive Offenders Act of 1881. The former provides f surrender to foreign States of persons accused or convicted of c crimes within the jurisdiction of such States, and for the tr criminals surrendered to British dominions. Treaties for the extra of fugitive criminals exist between Her Majesty's Government an Governments of France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Brazil, S Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and No Switzerland, Hayti, the United States of America, the Arg Republic, Columbia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Orange Free Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Tonga, and Uruguay. In ceedings taken in New South Wales under this Act the fugiti brought before the Governor, who hears evidence on oath, and, if sat that the person is liable to be extradited, makes out a warrant t effect. At the hearing of the case, the Consul for the country to the person charged belongs, the Crown Solicitor, and the Insp General of Police are present. If a warrant is made out, the pri nt to Darlinghurst Gaol for fifteen days prior to extradition, during h interval he may apply to the Supreme Court for a writ of *as corpus.* During the ten years ended 1896 there were altoer 24 persons extradited, all of whom were escapees from the ich penal settlement of New Caledonia.

nder the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, provision is made for the ender from the United Kingdom to a British possession or *vice versa*, om one British possession to another, of fugitives charged with the etration of crimes which are, in the part of Her Majesty's inions where they are committed, punishable by imprisonment with labour for twelve months or more, or by some greater penalty. ons apprehended under the Act are dealt with at a Magistrate's rt, and their cases are included in the figures relating to the business sacted at Magistrates' Courts, and not in the returns relating to Extradition Court.

uring 1896, 25 fugitive offenders—24 males and 1 female—were sted in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, or in foreign ntries, and returned to New South Wales. Of these 5 were sumily convicted before magistrates, and 14 were committed to higher ts, the other 6 cases being withdrawn or discharged.

here were also 40 fugitive offenders—35 males and 5 females—from r portions of Her Majesty's dominions arrested in New South les, and brought up at magistrates' courts during the year. Of e, 13 were remanded to Victoria, 16 to Queensland, 2 to Tasmania, 5 to New Zealand; the other 4 cases being withdrawn or disrged.

DECREASE IN CRIME.

There are two ways available for testing the increase or decrease in ne: the first, which is by comparing the number of arrests with the le population of the country, may be said to be a test of the ingness or otherwise of the people to obey the laws; the second is a parison of the persons committed for trial by jury with the whole ulation, and as all serious offenders are so tried, this may be looked n as a test of the prevalence of serious crime. In making parisons of this kind it must be borne in mind—first, in regard to ehensions, that as new laws are continually being made, and the e proportion of such laws attach the penalty of fine or imprisonment heir breach, the number of offences for which a person is liable to pprehended has constantly been increasing; and second, that the ral tendency of late years has been for magistrates to deal marily with a large proportion of the cases submitted to them. ce it is quite possible that crime might be neither increasing nor inishing, and yet the returns show an increase of apprehensions a decrease of committals. Taking all things into consideration, tables given hereunder may be accepted as showing that crime has ly decreased. The first table shows, in quinquennial periods, the

mean population, the average number of apprehensions, and the pro
tion of these to the general population for the last twenty-seven year

Period.	Mean Population.	Apprehensions.	
		Average Annual.	Per 100,000 of Population
1870-74	526,733	19,422	3,687
1875-79	633,255	28,837	4,554
1880-84	802,712	41,262	5,140
1885-89	1,000,744	39,406	3,938
1890-94	1,174,963	37,854	3,222
1895-96	1,276,207	36,790	2,883

It cannot be claimed that 2,883 apprehensions per 100,000 of
lation is a low average; on the contrary, it is much above that of
of the other colonies of the group, but it is a marked improveme
the rates of previous years. The comparison made above has refe
to the whole population, but as few persons under 15 years o
commit crimes, children under that age have been excluded fro
following statement, which compares the four years 1879–82 wit
four years 1889–92, these periods being selected on account o
number in each age-group being accurately determinable fro
Census taken about the middle of each period. The following f
relate to males :—

Age-group.	1879-82.			1889-92.		
	Population.	Average Annual Arrests.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Population.	Average Annual Arrests.	Per Pop
15 years and under 20...	38,169	1,734	4,543	54,267	1,882	
20 ,, ,, 30...	75,106	8,884	11,829	117,858	9,939	
30 ,, ,, 40...	56,699	8,141	14,358	92,495	8,848	
40 ,, ,, 50...	43,668	5,945	13,614	58,500	5,803	
50 ,, upwards...	44,602	5,061	11,347	68,970	5,045	

In every age-group there has been a decided fall in the proport
arrests, but the improvement is most marked in the higher age-g
which every year are becoming more largely composed of Austr

n. The decline in the proportion of females arrested is even more iceable than amongst the males. The following figures relating to ales are on the same basis as those in the preceding table :—

Age-group.	1879-82.			1889-92.		
	Population.	Average Annual Arrests.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Population.	Average Annual Arrests.	Per 100,000 of Population.
years and under 20...	37,565	484	1,288	54,476	463	850
,, ,, 30...	59,969	1,813	3,023	100,391	1,814	1,807
,, ,, 40...	40,345	2,018	5,002	63,993	1,600	2,500
,, ,, 50...	27,189	1,471	5,410	40,895	1,035	2,531
,, upwards...	27,120	1,118	4,122	45,201	740	1,637

Turning to the committals to the higher Courts and the convictions ere, an even more decided decline is noticeable, and as the committals resent the more serious types of offences, the decline must be looked on as especially satisfactory :—

Period.	Committals.		Convictions.	
	Annual Average.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Annual Average.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1870–74	1,134	215·3	644	122·3
1875–79	1,506	237·8	881	139·1
1880–84	1,693	210·9	1,044	130·1
1885–89	1,539	153·9	885	88·4
1890–94	1,479	125·9	916	78·0
1895–96	1,354	106·1	875	68·6

It will be seen that the fall has been nearly continuous over the ole period, convictions for serious offences being scarcely so numerous they were twenty years ago, notwithstanding the fact that population s nearly doubled during the interval.

It may be taken, then, as clearly proved that there has been a great crease in crime during the last twenty-two years. The reform, if it may so termed, has come about owing to a general improvement in the mmunity itself, and not to the reform of individuals by reason of the terrent effect of punishments inflicted. It is in vain to look for the formation of persons who have lapsed into crime; the prison statistics owhere show that punishment as now administered has in general any ch effect. Reference has already been made to persons with previous nvictions, but, as explained, the convictions referred to are convictions ithin the year. If all convictions be included, it would seem that about 72 per cent. were persons who entered prison during 1896 for the first time or whose history was unknown. Of these, a large number, probably not far short of 40 per cent., find their way again into prison, not deterred by their former experience, or driven to crime by the loss of caste which a criminal conviction inevitably involves. Of the persons convicted for the second time, 52 per cent. will find their way to gaol for the third time, and of the thrice convicted about 60 per cent. will be again received into gaol.

CRIME IN AUSTRALASIA.

The convictions in the higher Courts of New South Wales, taken over a series of years, greatly exceed in number those of any other colony, and in proportion to the population they are only exceeded by Western Australia. So marked is this fact that much speculation has been indulged in as to the probable cause of the anomaly. It is admitted that the people of all the colonies are practically derived from the same stock, while their occupations and habits of life are fairly alike, and a theory has been hazarded that the high rate of crime in New South Wales is due to a blood taint derived from the original bond-population of this colony. Such a theory is manifestly absurd, as Tasmania, the province which received proportionately the largest number of convicts, and the population of which has been least diluted by immigration, has for many years had the most favourable record of convictions. There is no evidence that such a population now exists anywhere in Australasia; it certainly does not exist in New South Wales. But though the gratuitous theory above alluded to may be easily disposed of, the fact remains that the second largest proportion of convictions in the higher courts occurs in this colony. Western Australia shows a much higher proportion; but its sparse population and peculiar situation would warrant the anticipation of a large amount of crime of a kind not found in the older settled provinces. The convictions after trial in the Superior Courts of Australasia, for the year 1896, were as follow:—

Colony.	Convictions in Superior Courts.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
New South Wales	879	68
Victoria	424	36
Queensland	258	55
South Australia	131	36
Western Australia	177	148
Tasmania	35	21
New Zealand	291	41
Australasia	2,195	51

In the foregoing table it will be observed that New South Wales has e largest proportion of convictions of any of the colonies except estern Australia, the peculiar circumstances of which have already en alluded to. It has already been pointed out, in explaining the anges in the compilation of the criminal statistics, that the high rate offenders in New South Wales is due to a number of causes. First nong these, as accounting for the excessive number of convictions in e Superior Courts, may be mentioned the differences in the jurisdiction the Courts of the various colonies. For instance, South Australia d Tasmania have no intermediate Courts like the Quarter Sessions of ew South Wales and the District Courts with criminal jurisdiction of me of the other colonies, and many persons who would be committed higher Courts in New South Wales are convicted in the Magisterial ourts of South Australia and Tasmania. Further, in Victoria agistrates have a much wider jurisdiction than in New South Wales, d many offenders who are summarily convicted in the former colony ould have to be committed to a higher tribunal in the latter province. will be seen, therefore, that this question of the jurisdiction of the agistracy of the colonies is one which must affect the criminal returns the Superior Courts.

Another point which must be considered is the large number of rsons who drift from one part of the country to another in search of ork. For many years there has been in New South Wales a large pulation whose abode in any district is determined by the existence of demand for unskilled labour, and it is from the ranks of this floating pulation that a large proportion of the persons convicted of crime is rived. All the colonies have, to a greater or less extent, this class population; but in New South Wales it is numerically the largest. s these people settle down to regular employment in a fixed abode and quire interests apart from the excitements of an unsettled life, crime will found to diminish. The neighbouring colony of Victoria, where the crease of convictions has steadily kept pace with the settlement of its opulation, may be cited as an example of this truth, the proportion of nvictions in 1896 being 36 per 100,000, as compared with 101 in 1866.

The laws relating to crime are somewhat similar throughout Austral- sia, although there are one or two important points of difference, such s the provision of the Crimes Act of 1890, under which Justices in Victoria may, under certain circumstances, discharge a person accused f simple larceny without proceeding to a conviction, which might be found on investigation to considerably affect the returns. It is possible, too, that the administration of these laws may be more rigorous in New South Wales than in any of the other provinces. This has already been shown to be the case in regard to drunkenness, and offers an additional xplanation of the large number of convictions obtained in New South Wales. It should also be remembered that in this colony there is no Act to prevent the influx of criminals, such as exists and is stringently nforced in some of the other provinces.

THE SUPREME COURT—CIVIL JURISDICTION.

The chief legal tribunal of the colony is the Supreme Court,
is at present composed of seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justic
six Puisne Judges. Civil actions are usually tried by a jury of
persons, but either party to the suit, on cause shown, may apply
Judge in Chambers to have the cause tried by a jury of tw
Twice the number of jurors required to sit on the case are chose
lot, from a panel summoned by the Sheriff, and from that nu
each of the parties strikes out a fourth, the remainder thus selecte
both parties forming the jury who are to try the case. The jury
constituted the judges of the facts of the case only, being boun
accept the dicta of the Judge on all points of law. From the C
thus constituted an appeal lies to what is called the "Full Co
sitting *in Banco*, which is generally composed of at least three of
Judges. The Chief Justice, or in his absence the senior Pu
Judge, presides over the Full Court, which gives its decision
majority. The circumstances under which new trials are gra
are:—Where the Judge has erroneously admitted or rejected
terial evidence; where he has wrongly directed the jury on a poi
law; where the verdict of the jury is clearly against evidence
where, from some other cause, there has evidently been a miscar
of justice.

Provision is made for appeals to the Privy Council, but any
wishing to carry his cause before the supreme tribunal of the Em
must first obtain leave so to do from the Supreme Court. The am
in dispute must be at least £500, or affect the construction of a
South Wales statute. In other cases application for leave to a
must be made to the Privy Council itself. The British Government
appointed Chief Justice Way, of South Australia, to a seat on
Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, so that he may bring t
deliberations of the Committee his knowledge of the laws, espe
the land laws, of the colonies. So far as New South Wales is
cerned, there have been, during the ten years ended 1896, 41 ap
to the Privy Council in common law, 27 in Equity, 2 in Bankru
and 1 from the judgment of the Vice-Admiralty Court; of whi
appeals in common law and 4 in Equity were made during
Only two of these appeals were in cases directly arising out of the C
Lands Acts; but in a number of other cases questions of interpret
of the land laws of the colony have arisen when the appeals
being considered by the Privy Council.

The Chief Justice has also an extensive jurisdiction as Commi
of the Vice-Admiralty Court, in which all cases arising out of colli
etc., in Australian waters, are determined. One of the Puisne J
acts as his deputy, but the Supreme Court, as such, has no jurisd
in Admiralty cases.

One of the Puisne Judges also acts as Judge of the Equity Court, from ose decrees an appeal lies to the Full Court, and thence to the Privy uncil.

Affairs in Bankruptcy are also dealt with by a Puisne Judge, assisted the Registrar. An appeal can be made to the Full Court against Judge's decision.

Another Puisne Judge presides over the Divorce Court, in which ses are usually tried without a jury, an appeal lying to the Supreme urt.

The Equity Judge formerly represented the ecclesiastical jurisdiction the Supreme Court, and heard and decided all applications for the obate of wills and for letters of administration, and also determined its as to the validity, etc., of wills. By the Probate Act of 1890 is jurisdiction was vested in the Supreme Court in its Probate risdiction, and the business transferred to such Judge as might be pointed Probate Judge. Motions for rehearing cases, adjudicated this Court, are sometimes made before the Supreme Court or Privy uncil.

A Judge can only be removed from office upon the address of both ouses of Legislature. Upon permanent disability or infirmity, or ter fifteen years' service, a Judge is entitled to retire from the Bench ith a pension, the amount of which, as well as of his salary, is secured d regulated by various Acts.

A person eligible for admission as a solicitor, provided he has not en admitted in Great Britain or Ireland, or in any of the other ustralasian Colonies, must have been articled to some solicitor practising New South Wales, and have served for a term of five years, or in e case of a person who has taken a degree in Arts before entering into ticles, a term of three years, and must have passed the examinations a Board, consisting of two barristers and four solicitors, appointed nually for that purpose by the Supreme Court. The admission of solicitor can only take place on the last day of any of the four terms to which the judicial year is divided. A solicitor who ceases to actise for twelve months continuously may be struck off the roll, which case it is necessary for him to give a term's notice before can be readmitted. A barrister who has been in practice as ch for five years, having caused himself to be disbarred, can, under ct 55 Vic. No. 31, be admitted as a solicitor without examination. nder the provisions of the same Act a solicitor is competent to appear, d has the right of audience, in all courts of New South Wales. The urt can suspend or remove from the roll of solicitors any person who, its opinion, has been guilty of misconduct or malpractice.

The Board for approval of qualified persons to be admitted as barristers the Supreme Court of New South Wales, is formed under Act 11 Vic. o. 57, and consists of the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney-eneral for the time being, and two elected members of the Bar. Appli- nts must have been students-at-law for three, or in the case of graduates, for two years, and have passed all examinations prescribed by the A solicitor who has been in practice for not less than five years, and has removed his name from the roll of solicitors, is entitled, under 55 Vic. No. 31, to be admitted as a barrister without examin Admission is made in open Court any day in term by any two J sitting together.

During the year 1897 there were 143 persons practising as barr of the Supreme Court, while the solicitors numbered 838, of whom were in the metropolitan district, and 364 in various country town

COMMON LAW JURISDICTION OF SUPREME COURT.

The following table gives the number of writs issued and the a for which judgment was signed in the Supreme and Circuit (Common Law jurisdiction) during the last seven years. The num writs issued includes cases which were subsequently settled b parties; but the total amount involved in these claims is not, of c included in the sum for which judgment was signed. The figures include taxed costs :—

Year.	Writs issued.	Judgment signed.
	No.	£
1890	5,951	751,825
1891	6,144	537,231
1892	6,219	739,419
1893	6,205	724,211
1894	4,866	489,054
1895	4,118	478,225
1896	3,775	388,382

The number of causes set down and tried is shown below :—

Year.	Causes set down.	Not proceeded with.	Referred to Arbitration.	Causes Tried.			
				Verdict for Plaintiff.	Verdict for Defendant	Disagreement of Jury.	Non-suited.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1890	382	160	......	174	45	3	......
1891	528	252	......	204	71	1	......
1892	450	184	......	212	53	1	......
1893	456	190	......	197	69	......	......
1894	492	196	......	231	64	1	......
1895	426	168	13	196	35	1	13
1896	399	179	4	154	45	2	15

EQUITY JURISDICTION.

e practice and procedure of the Supreme Court in its equity juris- n are regulated by the Equity Act, 1880, and subsequent amending The transactions of the Equity Court during the last seven years as follow :—

ar.	Statements of Claims.	Statements of Defence.	Petitions.	Summonses.	Motions.	Decrees and Orders.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
90	224	115	136	....	....	644
91	212	135	137	....	....	712
92	246	103	143	....	....	829
93	240	115	139	....	....	835
94	221	144	112	148	253	899
95	222	126	128	131	201	897
96	254	166	136	120	258	902

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

number of probates and letters of administration granted by the me Court in its testamentary jurisdiction is shown in the follow- ble for the last ten years :—

Probates and Administrations—Wills annexed.		Letters of Administration.		Total.	
Number.	Amount sworn to.	Number.	Amount sworn to.	No. of Estates.	Amount sworn to.
	£		£		£
961	3,621,874	665	641,426	1,626	4,263,300
998	3,652,963	667	638,295	1,665	4,291,258
1,115	4,317,734	682	473,611	1,797	4,791,345
1,131	6,605,545	680	922,577	1,811	7,578,122
1,192	4,734,228	767	722,568	1,959	5,456,796
1,287	4,619,164	842	1,150,163	2,129	5,769,327
1,183	3,508,264	782	635,537	1,965	4,143,801
1,372	4,370,217	791	928,567	2,163	5,298,784
1,321	4,185,497	833	672,729	2,154	4,858,226
1,548	5,959,540	940	755,376	2,488	6,694,916

figures here shown and those dealt with in the chapter on Private ce as given by the Stamp Duties Department do not agree. The gives the gross values of estates, inclusive of such estates as, after igation, are found not to be subject to duty, while the Stamp s Department returns the net value of the estates, and excludes not subject to duty. The returns shown above are also swollen e extent by probates taken out a second time.

INTESTATE ESTATES.

An officer is appointed under Act 54 Vic. No. 25, as Curator of Intestate Estates. He is empowered to apply for an order to collect the estate of any person who has died intestate, and left real or personal property, and no widow or next of kin resident within the jurisdiction of the Court; or of a person who has died intestate and left no executor, or no executor capable of acting in execution of his will and willing to do so; and in a few other instances. After meeting all proved and allowed claims, the Curator pays the balance of the amount realised into the Colonial Treasurer's Curator of Intestate Estates Account. Moneys not claimed within six years are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and used for the public service of the colony. A rightful claimant may afterwards, however, obtain payment thereof, but without interest from the date of payment into the Treasury. Moneys belonging to minors are paid under order of the Court, and invested in the Savings Bank of New South Wales on behalf of the children until they reach the age of 21.

The number of estates opened during 1896 was 463, from which the Curator received £18,054, and paid away £6,605; while in connection with estates opened during previous years £16,160 was received, and £38,031 paid away. Commission and fees to the amount of £1,945 were paid into the Consolidated Revenue during the year. The Revenue also benefited to the extent of £12,795 of unclaimed moneys, while claims amounting to £4,042 were received for moneys which had been paid into the Consolidated Revenue.

BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

The Bankruptcy law is administered by a Judge in Bankruptcy, under 51 Vic. No. 19 and amending Acts. Certain of the powers vested in the Judge are, however, delegated to a Registrar in Bankruptcy, and in the country districts many Police Magistrates and Registrars of District Courts are appointed as District Registrars in Bankruptcy, and have the same powers and jurisdiction as the Registrar in respect to the examination of bankrupts, the issue of summonses, etc. Appeals from decisions of the Registrar or a District Registrar are made to the Judge in Bankruptcy, who also deals with questions relating to priority of claims. When any person becomes embarrassed, or is unable to pay his debts, the law allows him to sequestrate his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or the latter may, under certain specified conditions, apply for a compulsory sequestration. An officer of the Court, termed an official assignee, is deputed by the Judge to manage the sequestrated estate. He receives 2½ per cent. commission on the amount realised and 2½ per cent. on the amount of dividends declared. In some cases the Judge may also award him special remuneration. Creditors have the power to accept, and the Judge to approve, proposals for a composition, or for an arrangement, provided that the scheme has en approved by a majority representing three-fourths of the value of proved claims. If such a proposal has been accepted, one or two stees may be appointed in place of, or in addition to, the official signee. After the acceptance and approval of a composition or a eme of arrangement, a bankrupt may have his estate released from uestration. He is also entitled to a release when all the creditors ve been paid in full, or when they have given him a legal quittance the debts due to them. In other cases a bankrupt may give notice advertisement three months from the date of sequestration of his ention to apply for a certificate of discharge. The application is ard within thirty days of the date of the first publication of the vertisement. The Judge receives a report from the official assignee, d may either grant or refuse an absolute order of discharge, or suspend e operation of the order for a certain time, or grant an order subject conditions respecting the future earnings or income of the bankrupt. Statistics of the transactions of the Bankruptcy Court will be found the chapter of this work dealing with Private Finance. The matter most interest from a legal point of view is the expenditure incurred realizing estates. On an average, costs seem to absorb 40·35 per nt. of the unsecured assets.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES JURISDICTION.

Prior to the passing of the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1873 (36 Vic. o. 9) the Supreme Court of New South Wales had no jurisdiction in vorce. Under that Act the chief grounds for divorce were adultery nce marriage on the part of the wife, and adultery and cruelty on the rt of the husband. The present Act was assented to on the 9th ay, 1892, but did not come into force, owing to an informality, till he 6th August. During 1893 an amending Act (56 Vic. No. 36) as passed. Under these Acts petitions for divorce can be granted for he following causes, in addition to those already mentioned :—*Husband* *Wife.*—Desertion for not less than three years ; habitual drunkenness for a similar period ; being imprisoned under sentence for three ears or upwards ; attempt to murder or inflict grievous bodily harm, r repeated assault on the husband within a year preceding the date of he filing of the petition. *Wife v. Husband.*—Adultery, provided that t the time of the institution of the suit the husband is domiciled in ew South Wales ; desertion for not less than three years ; habitual runkenness for a similar period ; being imprisoned for three years or pwards, or having within five years undergone various sentences mounting in all to not less than three years ; attempt to murder or ssault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or repeated assault ithin one year previously. To entitle either party to seek relief on ny of these grounds he or she must have been domiciled in the colony or three years or upwards at the time of instituting the suit, and must ot have resorted to the colony for the purpose of having the marriage issolved.

In addition to the principal causes for which a divorce ma obtained, judicial separation may be granted for desertion exte over two years. Petitions of nullity of marriage may be granted in c in which the ceremony is rendered void by the law of the land, o which some statutory requirements have not been observed, or in wh one of the parties is incapable of performing the duties of marri The law also provides for suits for the restitution of conjugal rig Before such a suit can be brought there must have been a request o conciliatory character to the other party to return to cohabitation.

Further particulars relating to divorce will be found in the cha dealing with Vital Statistics.

DISTRICT COURTS.

District Courts have been established for the trial of civil causes wh the sum in dispute does not exceed £200. They are presided ove Judges who are specially appointed for the purpose, and who also form the duties of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, in which capacity t are competent to try all prisoners except such as are charged w capital crimes. District Courts sit during ten months of the yea the metropolis, and they are held twice a year in all considerable cou towns. The Judge is not ordinarily assisted by a jury, but in c where the amount in dispute exceeds £20, either of the parties may giving notice to the Registrar of the Court, have a jury summo On questions of law, and in respect to the admission or rejectio evidence, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The number of suits brought in the District Courts of the co and the mode in which they were tried, are given in the following t for the judicial year terminating at the end of February, 1897 :—

District.	Summonses.						Causes tried.	
	Causes tried.	Causes settled without hearing and not proceeded with.	Causes referred by parties to arbitration.	Causes left in arrear.	Total summonses issued.	Total amount sued for.	Verdict for— Plaintiff.	Verdict for— Defendant.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	No.
Metropolitan and Hunter	2,669	2,120	2	27	,818	3,276	2,451	218
Southern	295	283	...	31	609	17,784	257	38
South-western	367	206	...	18	591	17,700	326	41
Western	228	195	...	34	457	19,019	203	25
Northern	465	321	...	63	849	21,098	408	57
North-western	146	89	2	27	264	9,804	125	21
Total	4,170	3,214	4	200	7,588	178,681	3,770	400

Of the 4,170 causes heard during 1896-97, only 39 were tried by During the same period there were 13 appeals from judgments gi

:t Courts. In 9 of these cases the judgment was upheld, and
ıse it was reversed. There were also 14 motions for new trials,
hich were granted, and 5 refused.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.—SMALL DEBTS CASES.

;istrates' Courts in the metropolitan district can adjudicate upon
where the amount in dispute does not exceed £10, and in the
y districts upon cases involving an amount not exceeding £30.
ıtal number of small debt cases brought before Magistrates' Courts
1896 was 27,378, of which 10,307 were heard in the metropolitan
and 17,071 in the country courts. Of the metropolitan cases,
vere 8,355 in which the amount involved was under £5; 1,951 in
it was between £5 and £10; and 1 in which the amount was
ın £10 and £15. Of the cases tried in the country, there were
in which the amount was under £5; 3,999 in which it was
ın £5 and £10; and 2,097 in which it was between £10 and £30.

LICENSING COURTS.

:he metropolitan district of the colony the Licensing Court for
le of intoxicants consists of the Stipendiary Magistrates, with
dition of a Justice of the Peace especially appointed for the
e, bringing the number of occupants of the Bench up to seven,
of whom form a quorum; while in the country districts the
Police Magistrate and two Justices of the Peace, also specially
ted, constitute the Court. There has been an absolute decrease
number of licensed public-houses in the metropolitan district
1881, attributable to the operations of the Licensing Act, which
nto force in that year. In the succeeding year the number of
d houses in the metropolitan area was 940, and in the country
:s, 2,123; fourteen years later the numbers were 789 and 2,387
ively—a decrease equal to 16·1 per cent. in the metropolis, and
rease in the country districts of 12·4 per cent. The following
ives particulars respecting the number of public-houses, and the
e number of residents to each :—

Number of Licensed Houses.			Average number of Residents in District to each House.		
Metropolitan	Extra-Metropolitan.	Colony.	Metropolitan	Extra-Metropolitan	Colony.
858	2,510	3,368	389	379	308
856	2,549	3,405	411	280	313
853	2,575	3,428	434	284	321
847	2,594	3,441	471	295	339
834	2,607	3,441	994	301	348
812	2,558	3,370	513	310	359
795	2,495	3,290	531	327	376
793	2,445	3,238	525	347	391
789	2.387	3,176	519	368	405

The foll[illegible]ng table, giving the number of licenses current du each of th[illegible]st six years for the sale of the wines of the colony, wi found inte[illegible]ing :—

Year.	Metropolis.	Country.	Total
1891	192	298	490
1892	215	291	506
1893	241	270	511
1894	233	267	500
1895	271	273	544
1896	[illegible]	295	561

[illegible]NTS.

The law relating to [illegible] r [illegible] on of inventions and improvem has been in force sinc [illegible] is only within recent years tha provisions of the Act [illegible] vailed of to any great extent. 1879 and 1887 the la[illegible] as [illegible] ded and the fees reduced to nominal sum of £5 for comp [illegible] Letters Patent, and £2 for a tificate of Provisional Protection, [illegible] hich latter may, if applicatio made within twelve months fro[illegible] its granting, be converted a patent on the payment of an additional £3. The result has that the business of the Patent Office has greatly increased. inventions registered in 1895 were for the most part not local foreign, and this feature has marked the operations of the Pa Office since its inception. The following is the number of pat and assignments thereof for inventions or improvements regist from 1855 to 31st July, 1887, under Acts 16 Vic. No. 24 and 42 No. 27 :—

Year.	Number of Registrations.		
	Patents.	Assignments.	Total.
1855–59	26	......	26
1860–69	173	27	200
1870–79	426	137	563
1880–87	1,164	189	1,363
Total to 31st July, 1887	1,789	353	2,

llowing have been granted under Act 51 Vic. No. 3 :—

Letters Patent.	Letters Patent to supersede certificates.	Certificates of Provisional Protection.	Assignments.	Licenses.
225	12	183	15	......
490	75	252	58	......
518	89	278	84	3
494	105	274	100	2
540	101	252	111	3
496	82	208	105	8
366	77	240	113	19
410	81	310	80	44
478	88	301	104	17
545	111	314	91	12

* From 1st August to 31st December.

umbers of certificates of Provisional Protection and Letters applied for since the amending Act became law on the 1st 1887, are 2,612 and 4,562 respectively, and during 1896 the ere 314 and 545, while 91 assignments were registered during r period. In addition to these, 111 Letters Patent to supersede tes and 12 Licenses were registered in 1896. The countries ich applications for certificates of Provisional Protection and Patent in New South Wales were received are as follow :—

Country.	Registered during 1896.	Total registered since the 1887 Act became law.	Country.	Registered during 1896.	Total registered since the 1887 Act became law.
—			France	8	58
h Wales	295	2,955	New Caledonia	....	3
	157	1,416	Germany	15	92
nd	20	162	Hawaiian Islands	....	2
stralia	38	255	Italy	2	8
Australia	6	15	Japan	....	1
	6	29	Portugal	....	2
and	89	438	Russia	1	9
gdom	142	1,099	Transvaal	2	8
	2	34	Spain	....	1
y	....	3	Cuba	....	1
	....	1	Sweden	6	23
	....	2	Norway	....	1
Republic	....	2	Switzerland	....	2
	....	15	United States	66	523
	2	12			
	2	7	Total	859	7,174

It will th be seen that out of the total of 7,174 applications the present Act, 2,955, or over 41 per cent., were made by residing in the colony, though not necessarily for inventions p in New South Wales.

COPYRIGHT.

The Copyright Act in force in this colony was passed on the 14t 1879, and became law on the 1st July, 1879. The Act is divided in parts, dealing with the following subjects :—Part I. Literary, Dr and Musical Works ; Part II. Fine Arts ; Part III. Designs ; P Miscellaneous Provision

Part I provides for the re ation of copyright in books or p tions, as understood in the t sense of the term, and for eve edition containing any alterations in the matter ; and also t registration of playright, or the right of representing or perf dramatic or musical productions, whether previously printed an lished or not. In this colony c yright is registered only for first published here, and it commences to run on first publication, sentation, or performance ; but no remedy can be obtained o proceedings taken for anything done before registration. The t protection is 42 years, or the life of the author plus 7 years, whi is the longer period. Nothing blasphemous, seditious, immo libellous is entitled to be registered, nor any mere advertis Literary works for which registration is sought must be submit the Registrar in a complete state as published ; but dramatic or n works may be in manuscript, which is returned. One of the best issued of the first and each subsequent edition of every printed " published in the colony must, within two months of publicati delivered to the Public Library of New South Wales and to the Lib of the University of Sydney. The penalty for default in delivering copies is forfeiture of the value of the book and a sum not exceedin Library copies must be delivered whether the book is registered Lectures receive protection without being registered, on comp with the requirements of the Act ; but lectures are public prop delivered in any University, Public School, or College, or on any foundation, or by any individual by virtue of or according to an endowment, or foundation. The registration fee is 5s. ; and t for a copy of entry, whether required by the proprietor or else, is 3s.

Part II gives copyright in paintings, drawings, works of and engravings, including the design thereof, for 14 years, and graphs and the negatives thereof, for 3 years. The fees to be pai 1s. for photographs and their negatives and for chromograph for other subjects, and 3s. for copies of entry. Copyright fine art which has not been executed under commissi ity either follow the work or remain with the artist, but ceases to unless it has been secured by agreement between the parties, at or before the time of the sale or disposition of the original. tle a work to copyright it must be new and original, and must een executed in the colony.

t III. Under this part of the Act protection can be obtained for nd original designs, not previously published in this colony or ere, such designs being applicable to articles of manufacture or of art, whether intended for purposes of utility, ornament, or vise. The protection does not extend to the article itself, but only design thereof; consequently, it does not apply to any mechanical , principle, contrivance, application, or adaptation, or to the ial of which the article is composed. The substances to which s may be applied are for registration purposes divided by the Act fourteen classes, two years' protection being assigned to some , and three years to others. The design must be applied within lony. The registration fee is 10s., and registered designs must a registration mark. If protection is required in more classes ne, it can only be secured by simultaneous registration.

t IV contains general provisions, and amongst other matters es copyright to be personal property, assignable at law, and trans- le by bequest, and subject in case of intestacy to the same law of ution as other personal property.

Copyright Law of England is comprised chiefly in some fourteen f Parliament, of an unusually obscure and conflicting character, extensively elaborated by judicial decisions. Under the "Inter- al Copyright Act, 1886," 49 & 50 Vic. c. 33, and the Orders uncil thereunder, the greater part of this body of law, together he terms of the Copyright Convention of Berne, is made recipro- applicable to Great Britain and each of her Dependencies, and countries that are parties to the Convention, with their s, namely:—Germany; Spain, with her colonies; France, with olonies and Algeria; Great Britain, with her colonies and pos- ns; Belgium, Haiti, Italy, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Monaco, negro, and Tunis—previous copyright treaties being for the most brogated.

yright when registered in a foreign country is covered by the local ithin that country, and by the International Copyright Acts and nvention thereunder, within the British Dominions, and *vice versa*. erary matter published in any part of the British Dominions ow be protected by copyright throughout the whole Empire, by ring the work in the country of origin if there is a local Registry, the London Office if there is not. Proprietorship in registered ial copyright can be asserted in any Court in the Empire by pro- a copy of entry issued by the Copyright Office of the country in, and authenticated by the Governor or proper Minister of that y.

The registrations of copyright effected in New South Wales been :—

	During 1896.
PART I. *Literature* :—	
Printing and publishing right—	
Books	52
Periodicals	6
Music	11
Playright—	
Drama	4
Music	....
Total	73
PART II. *Fine Arts* :—	
Painting	....
Drawing	7
Sculpture	....
Engraving	2
Photography	12
Total	21
PART III. *Designs.*—Useful, Ornamental, or otherwise	18
Grand Total	112

The yearly receipts from registration of copyrights do not us reach £40. The highest sum in any year was £60 2s. in 1887, an lowest £25 13s. in 1889. During 1896 a total sum of £41 12s. received under the following heads :—Literature, £28 2s.; Fine £3 10s.; and Design, £10.

FOOD, COST OF LIVING, AND PRICES

FOOD SUPPLY.

THE soil of New South Wales is capable of producing in abundance most of the things essential for the sustenance of human life, ugh the production of some of these necessaries has been almost rely neglected, while others are obtained in quantities insufficient the wants of the community. Considering the comparatively high of wages which prevails, food of all kinds is fairly cheap, and cles of diet which in other countries are almost within the category luxuries are in New South Wales largely consumed even by the rest classes.

he cost of providing food, and beverages other than intoxicants, umed in the colony during the year 1896 may be set down at ,239,100. This sum represents the price to the consumer, and covers charges except that of cooking and preparing the food for the table. expenditure on wines, spirits, and beer amounted to £4,063,000, so the total expenditure for all food and beverages was £20,302,100, l to £15 15s. 4d. per inhabitant, or 10·3d. daily. Excluding intoxi- , the yearly expenditure per inhabitant was £12 12s. 3d., and the ge per day, 8·3d. Compared with the cost of food supply in countries, this sum will not appear considerable, especially when wance is made for the profusion with which flesh meat is consumed wasted in New South Wales. The following figures are taken from hall's *Dictionary of Statistics*, and show the annual expenditure per d of the more important European countries and of the United States Canada :—

Country.	Per Inhabitant.			Country.	Per Inhabitant.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom ...	14	4	9	Norway	9	15	0
France	12	4	5	Denmark	11	14	0
Germany	10	18	5	Holland	10	8	0
Russia	5	19	7	Belgium	12	3	1
Austria	7	17	4	Switzerland	8	11	7
Italy	6	4	10	Roumania	6	10	0
Spain	8	9	0	Servia	6	10	0
Portugal	7	3	0	United States	9	17	7
Sweden	9	18	11	Canada	8	9	0

There has been a falling off in the value of the articles of food co sumed in New South Wales during the last few years, due both to decrease in the quantities consumed and to a fall in prices. As l as 1892 the value of food and beverages consumed amounted to 1 per head daily, or exclusive of intoxicants, to 10d.; while in 1896 th amounts had fallen to 10¼d. and 8¼d. respectively.

The main articles of consumption in the colony are meat and bre the retail value of which equals about 41 per cent. of the total expe ture on food. The following is the approximate retail cost of the c articles which enter into daily consumption:—

	£
Bread	2,412,100
Fresh meat	4,274,200
Vegetables and fruits	2,092,700
Milk, butter, cheese, etc.	2,955,400
Other farm produce	1,071,700
Sugar	1,398,200
Tea, coffee, etc.	793,100
Other foods and non-alcoholic beverages	1,241,700
Total expenditure on food	16,239,100
Wines, beer, and spirituous liquors	4,063,000
Total expenditure on food and beverages	£20,302,100

The quantities of the principal articles of diet annually require each member of the community are estimated to be as follow:—

Flour		250·0 lb.
Oatmeal		8·7 „
Rice		11·2 „
Meat	Beef 156·3 lb. Mutton 108·4 „ Pork, &c. 13·7 „	278·4 „
Potatoes		204·5 „
Sugar		91·3 „
Butter		17·6 „
Cheese		5·9 „
Tea		8·3 „
Coffee		9·0 oz.
Cocoa and chocolate		7·1 „

he year 1897 the total demand of the colony for the above f food will be approximately :—

....	178,400 tons.	Sugar	53,300 tons.
....	5,100 „	Butter....................	10,200 „
....	6,500 „	Cheese....................	3,400 „
eef....................	91,200 „	Tea	11,152,500 lb.
utton	63,200 „	Coffee	725,500 „
ork and bacon	8,000 „	Cocoa and chocolate	580,200 „
....	118,500 „		

production of wheat in the colony is now nearly equal to the s of the population. Based on the average yearly consumption ushels per head, the demand of 1897, exclusive of seed, will be ,737,000 bushels, the difference nearly equalling the requirements .

eal and rice are the only other articles of cereal produce largely ed. Rice is not grown to any extent in the colony, and the y required is imported either directly or indirectly from China dia. The land adapted for the growth of this plant in New Wales is not very extensive in area, and is probably put to better atmeal, though manufactured in the colony, is also largely d.

e matter of meat supply the colony is almost independent of l assistance. The consumption of fresh meat of all kinds is ly great, and, though possibly less than in the neighbouring of Queensland, it exceeds per head that of any other country. uirements of the colony for food alone amounted in 1896 to head of cattle, and 3,107,273 head of sheep; and though the of cattle sufficient to meet the demand was beyond the resources colony, the number of sheep available for market very largely d even the number given above, and were it not that beef erred to mutton, no stock need have been imported for ering.

wine slaughtered for food during 1896 numbered 90,781. The y of bacon and hams made, according to the returns collected, 03,763 lb., and the quantity imported for local requirements the year was 1,012,757 lb. The annual consumption per head of d its manufactured products, averages about 13·7 lb.

mount of potatoes imported for local consumption during 1896 117 tons, while the quantity available from the fields of the after allowing for seed, was 51,504 tons. The net imports ed, therefore, to 44 per cent. of the total consumption, as ed with 37 per cent. in 1895; and 28 per cent. in 1894.

onsumption of sugar in the colony is enormous, averaging about per head during each year. The fields of the colony produced

during 1896 about 25,458 tons, or 35,266 tons short of th
demand, the bulk of which was imported from Queenslan
pointed out in the pages relating to agriculture, a large part
colony is well adapted to the growth of sugar-cane ; but the lo
which sugar brought some few years ago, when the market was a
by the bounties given by Germany and France, made the in
unprofitable, and the cultivation of cane was, to some extent, neg
The considerable rise in the price of sugar during 1889 led to an in
of cultivation over that of the previous year, and this was follow
further extensions in the succeeding five years, but the area unde
could still be increased 58 per cent. before the production of sugar
equal the local demand.

The year 1890 proved ve ouraging to the dairy farme
the quantity of butter and cheese manufactured was sufficient t
local wants, and leave a small balance for export. The product
the succeeding season did not, however, equal the demand, as 1,419,
of butter and 224,397 lb. of cheese were imported for local require
In 1892, there was a surplus of 1 27,800 lb. of butter for export
cheese to the amount of 53,700 lb. had to be imported to meet
requirements. Since then the production of butter and chee
increased very rapidly, and in 1894 there were 4,600,000 lb. of
and 229,000 lb. of cheese available for export ; but owing to t
seasons the quantities available for export in 1895 and 1896 wer
paratively small. The consumption of butter and cheese during
was 25,281,000 lb. and 4,970,000 lb. respectively.

The quantity of tea consumed is remarkably large, the average
8 lb. 3 oz. per inhabitant, while of coffee the average consump
9 oz. The consumption of tea is universal throughout the co
and the four million people in Australasia use fully twice the qu
of this beverage which is consumed by the millions who inhabi
tinental Europe, other than Russia. Though the soil and climat
part of New South Wales are adapted to the cultivation of t
systematic attempt has been made to grow this plant. The coffee
especially the Liberian variety, thrives in the north coast distric
it has not yet been cultivated for commercial purposes.

The average quantity of the principal articles of common diet is
herewith for the various colonies of Australasia. It will be seen
the consumption of wheat varies from 338·2 lb. in Victoria to 45
in New Zealand, the average consumption being 378·5 lb. per head.
varies greatly in the quantity used, only 7·7 lb. being the con
of Victoria, as against 20·8 lb. in Western Australia. The con
of tea is largest in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Q
—with 10·2 lb. in the first, and 8·3 lb. in each of the two
colonies. Of sugar, the average quantity used is 117·3
Western Australia, and 91·3 lb. in New South Wales.
a favourite beverage in Australasia, the consumpti

nth that of tea. It is used most largely in Western Australia, e annual demand amounts to 19·2 oz. The particulars for each re as follow :—

Article.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
..................lb.	360·0	338·2	346·1	380·0	380·0	393·3	455·5	378·5
..................lb.	11·2	7·7	18·6	11·8	20·8	8·2	8·7	10·6
l........... ...lb.	8·7	7·3	4·4	4·5	6·4	...	...	7·2
..................lb.	204·5	301·3	169·9	172·1	132·9	547·7	423·1	275·7
..................lb.	91·3	94·5	114·0	94·1	117·3	84·5	83·0	93·5
....lb.	8·3	7·4	8·3	7·7	10·2	6·6	6·6	7·7
....lb.	0·6	0·9	0·5	1·1	1·2	0·4	0·5	0·7
..................lb.	5·9	3·2	3·7	...	...	...	4·5	4·5
....lb.	17·6	12·6	10·3	...	...	...	18·5	15·2
. ...lb.	42·0	19·4	50·3	10·8	15·9	18·7	33·1	30·8
..................lb.	156·3	133·3	280·0	...	...	153·5	90·0	145·3
..................lb.	108·4	86·1	90·0	...	...	107·3	110·0	97·9
nd Bacon......lb.	13·7	11·0	...	...	..	17·7	...	12·7

onsumption of potatoes per head in some of the colonies is less than the foregoing table shows; thus in the case of ia the returns show a consumption of 548 lb., and in New , of 423 lb. It is probable that potatoes are in some years grown s of the local requirements, and the market in New South nd other continental colonies not being sufficient to absorb ss, it remains unconsumed or is given to live stock and poultry. the circumstances, it is impossible to determine the quantity entering into the food consumption of the population.

onsumption of salt appears excessive in some of the colonies, he figures for South Australia seem too low. This may be d by the fact that large quantities of salt are used in meat ng, notably in New South Wales, Queensland, and New ; while in South Australia salt, taken from lagoons, is manu- into table salt in considerable quantities, of which there is, , no record. Probably the quantity required for domestic tion averages about 20 lb. in each colony.

Judged [illegible] by the standard of food consumed, the people of N Wales [illegible] ell as of all the other colonies of Australasia, are fa situa [illegible] Compared with those of other countries, this clearly [illegible] ar from the following table, the particulars given with th [illegible] ception of those referring to New South Wales, taken from Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics* :—

Country.	Per Inhabitant.							
	rain.	eat.	Sugar.	Butter and Cheese.	Potatoes.	Salt.	Tea.	Coffee.
	lb.	[illegible]	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	oz.	oz.
United Kingdom	[illegible]	[illegible]	75	19	380	40	78	13
France	540	[illegible]	20	8	570	20	0·5	62
Germany	550	[illegible]	18	8	1,020	17	1·2	76
Russia	635	[illegible]	11	5	180	19	11	2
Austria	460	61	18	7	560	14	0·4	26
Italy	400	26	8	4	50	18	...	18
Spain	480	71	6	3	20	17	0·2	5
Portugal	500	49	12	3	40	17	2	9
Sweden	560	62	22	11	500	28	0·6	110
Norway	440	78	13	14	500	40	1·5	110
Denmark	560	64	22	22	410	25	6	110
Holland	560	57	35	15	820	20	19	322
Belgium	590	65	27	15	1,050	...	0·4	158
Switzerland	440	62	26	11	140	...	1·6	110
Roumania	400	82	4	9	80	...	...	8
Servia	400	84	4	9	80	...	...	8
United States	370	150	53	20	170	39	20	142
Canada	400	90	45	22	600	40	61	7
New South Wales	380	278	91	24	205	42	143	9

Taking the articles of the foregoing list, with the exception of coffee, and reducing them to a common basis of comparison, it found that the amount of thermo-dynamic power capable generated by the food consumed in this colony is greater th any other country mentioned in the table. For the purpose son, the figures of Dr. Edward Smith, F.R.S., in his w on Foods, have been used, and the heat developed b

ivalent weight lifted 1 foot high. In estimating the thermo-
ffect of food, grain has been reduced to its equivalent in flour,
l has been paid to the probable nature of the meat consumed.
s for potatoes are given as they appear in the *Dictionary of*
but it is a probable supposition that but a small proportion
ntity over 400 lb. set down for any country is required for
nsumption, and the figures relating to some of the countries
fore, excessive. The substances included in the table are
pplemented both in America and in Europe by other foods,
ore so than in these colonies; and the figures given will
fford a just view of the comparative quantity and food-
e articles of consumption in each of the countries mentioned.
arison will appear much more strongly in favour of these
hen the average amount of work which each individual in
nity is called upon to perform is taken into consideration.
lasia the proportion of women and children engaged in
ccupations is far smaller than in Europe and America, and
of labour of all persons are also less, so that the amount of
y required is reduced in proportion.

be admitted that the method of comparison adopted in the
able is not entirely satisfactory, as the different functions of
ds of food have not been considered. Experiments and obser-
de in Europe show that a standard may be set up by which
t of nutrients required to maintain different classes of people
easured. Professor Voit, of Munich, whose authority is
y European specialists, has ascertained that to sustain a
man engaged in moderately hard muscular work are required
of protein, and quantities of carbohydrates and fats, sufficient
rotein to yield 3,050 calories of energy. There are 454 grams
avoirdupois, and the calorie is the amount of heat that would
emperature of 4 lb. of water one degree Fahrenheit. Applying
ined values of the various foods, the consumption of which
en given, it will be found that the daily consumption per
is equivalent to 115 grams of protein and 3,494 calories, or
quantity Professor Voit declares to be sufficient for a labour-
If allowance be made for the fact that only 40 per cent. of
tion are adult males, 33 per cent. women, and 27 per cent.
e quantity of food consumed in New South Wales would
e far in excess of the actual requirements of the population,
the excess may be looked upon as waste, it is none the less
the wealth of the people whose circumstances permit them
in it.

owing table gives the annual consumption of tobacco in
and the principal countries of the world. The use of
pears to be more prevalent in Western Australia and New
es than in any of the other colonies, while the least consump-
Tasmania and South Australia. Compared with other parts

of the world, the average consumption of Australasia will not appear excessive :—

Country.	lb.	Country.	lb.
Australasia—		Austria-Hungary	3·77
New South Wales......	3·38	Italy	1·34
Victoria	3·01	Spain......................	1·70
Queensland	2·83	Holland	6·92
South Australia	1·94	Belgium	3·15
Western Australia ...	3·82	Switzerland...............	3·24
Tasmania	2·02	Sweden....................	1·87
New Zealand............	2·09	Denmark	3·70
United Kingdom	1·41	Turkey.....................	4·37
France	2·05	United States	4·40
Germany	3·00	Canada	2·11
Russia.......................	1·23	Brazil	4·37

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICANTS.

The consumption of wines, spirits, and fermented liquors has be decreasing for some years, as will be seen from the following statemen showing the average consumption of spirit per inhabitant during t past ten years :—

	Gallons.		Gallons.
1887	2·97	1892	2·67
1888	2·88	1893	2·30
1889	2·73	1894	2·17
1890	2·68	1895	2·08
1891	2·83	1896	2·10

These figures represent the amount of alcohol contained in the liqu consumed ; the quantities are given in proof spirit as being a meas more easily understood, if less scientific, than that of absolute alcoh

The state of things depicted in the foregoing table is due to a co bination of causes. Four of these are most notable—the more string provisions of the Licensing Act, the decrease in the proportion rougher labourers to the general community, the depression in tra and, lastly, the spread of teetotal principles. It would be futile attempt to determine how these causes have operated individually decreasing the consumption of intoxicants ; but the fact of such decrease cannot be gainsaid, for the direct evidence given above corroborated by the general decline in the number of arrests on charg of drunkenness.

The volume of spirits consumed in the colony during 1896 w 8,013 gallons of locally distilled, and 933,702 gallons of imported spi in all 941,715 gallons, equal to 0·73 gallons per head—a quantity i

-thirds of the consumption during the year 1887, as will appear following table:—

Quantity Consumed.		Year.	Quantity Consumed.	
Total.	Per Inhabitant.		Total.	Per Inhabitant.
gallons.	gallons.		gallons.	gallons.
1,136,863	1·11	1892	1,184,042	1·00
1,164,975	1·10	1893	999,984	0·83
1,159,380	1·07	1894	952,170	0·77
1,201,946	1·09	1895	921,468	0·73
1,268,368	1·11	1896	941,715	0·73

verage consumption of beer per head of population has declined ably during the last ten years. From the following statement, , it will be found that both the quantity of beer imported and tity locally brewed during the year 1896, showed a slight increase gures of the previous year, and that the total consumption of was higher than that of 1893, 1894, and 1895, but lower than iny of the first six years of the decennial period:—

Year.	Colonial.	Imported.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1887	9,720,000	2,126,000	11,846,000	11·69
1888	9,300,000	2,413,000	11,713,000	11·01
1889	9,515,000	2,514,000	12,029,000	10·89
1890	9,504,000	2,207,000	11,711,000	10·63
1891	10,594,000	2,464,000	13,058,000	11·42
1892	10,688,000	2,201,000	12,889,000	10·91
1893	9,642,000	,536,000	11,178,000	9·23
1894	9,392,000	709,000	11,101,000	8·97
1895	9,708,000	1,629,000	11,337,000	8·96
1896	10,073,000	1,700,000	11,773,000	9·14

mount of beer drunk in 1887 was 11,846,000 gallons, of which)0 gallons were the produce of the colony, representing 82·1 . of the total consumption. In 1896 the quantity had fallen to)00 gallons, of which the proportion locally made was 85·6 . During the same period the consumption per head declined ·69 to 9·14 gallons.

vine entering into consumption in New South Wales is chiefly luce of its own vineyards; the quantity is, however, much less ight be expected in a country so eminently adapted to vine The consumption per inhabitant is less than one-half of that

of Victoria. The quantity of Australian and foreign wines co
during each of the past ten years is shown below :—

Year.	Australian.	Foreign.	Total.	Per Inhabita
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1887	584,179	161,033	745,212	0·73
1888	625,359	180,502	805,861	0·76
1889	747,435	170,526	917,961	0·83
1890	640,205	161,945	802,150	0·73
1891	788,038	173,541	961,579	0·84
1892	885,250	135,894	1,021,144	0·86
1893	921,579	97,551	1,019,130	0·84
1894	901,156	82,489	983,645	0·79
1895	727,372	80,685	808,057	0·64
1896	707,506	81,561	789,067	0·61

The amount expended upon wines, spirits, and fermented liq
consumed in the colony during the year 1896 was about £4,063
Of this sum, £2,200,300 was the cost of liquors to the retailer, of
£966,800 represents duty, excise, and license fees, and £1,233,500
invoice price of the goods. The cost of working the trade and
profits of the merchants and retailers, therefore, came to £1,862
The expenditure on liquors per inhabitant amounted to £3 3s.
during the year, which, though undoubtedly a large sum, amount
as it does, to 6·9 per cent. of the average income, is nevertheless
portionately smaller than the outlay in several European count
Although the average per head of population was higher in 1896
in the preceding year, yet there has been a satisfactory decrease in
expenditure on intoxicants since 1888, not only in the amount
inhabitant but even in the total sum. This will be seen from
following table :—

Year.	Expenditure on Intoxicants.			
	Total.	Per Inhabitant.		
	£	£	s.	d.
1888	4,680,000	4	10	5
1889	4,765,000	4	9	4
1890	4,774,100	4	6	8
1891	4,905,400	4	5	9
1892	4,713,900	3	19	10
1893	4,011,800	3	6	3
1894	3,930,800	3	3	6
1895	3,851,300	3	0	11
1896	4,063,000	3	3	1

te per inhabitant and the proportion of income devoted to liquors s countries are given below. The figures should, however, be th this qualification, that in several of the countries enumerated re consumed principally with meals in place of tea or coffee, so artaken of in English-speaking countries :—

Countries.	Amount per Inhabitant.	Proportion of Income.
	£ s. d.	Per cent.
ited Kingdom	2 18 0	8·2
nce	1 19 0	7·7
many	1 14 0	9·4
sia	1 0 0	9·9
stria	1 13 0	10·5
ly	1 5 0	10·7
in	1 5 0	9·1
gium and Holland	2 0 0	8·5
mark	2 10 0	11·1
ndinavia	1 6 0	7·7
ited States	1 10 0	4·2
w South Wales	3 3 1	6·9

llowing table shows the consumption for all the colonies during 1896. The largest consumption of spirits per inhabitant is rn Australia, Queensland being second. Wine is used most South Australia, Western Australia, and Victoria; and beer rn Australia, Queensland, and Victoria. The average con- of alcohol in all the colonies amounts to 2·29 gallons of proof r inhabitant, ranging from 5·44 gallons in Western Australia gallons in Tasmania. In Western Australia, of course, there usually large proportion of adult males :—

ny.	Spirits.		Wine.		Beer, &c.		Equivalent in Alcohol (proof) per Inhabitant.
	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Vales	941,715	0·73	789,067	0·61	11,773,323	9·14	2·10
	865,937	0·73	1,592,791	1·35	13,468,550	11·43	2·62
	422,859	0·91	280,422	0·60	5,703,137	12·36	2·69
lia	143,104	0·40	708,996	1·98	3,276,778	9·13	2·18
tralia	263,787	2·21	164,546	1·38	2,634,132	22·03	5·44
	61,986	0·38	14,522	0·09	1,175,798	7·19	1·34
	447,286	0·60	99,477	0·13	5,564,808	7·46	1·60
lasia	3,146,674	0·73	3,649,821	0·84	43,656,526	10·10	2·29

Taking Australasia as a whole, it compares very favourably most of the European countries in the quantity of intoxicants consumed by each inhabitant, as the following statement shows. figures are reduced to gallons of proof spirit from data given in hall's *Dictionary of Statistics*, and would look even more favourabl Australasia were the fact of the large preponderance of male females in these colonies made a feature of the comparison :—

Conntry.	Consumption.	Country.	Consumption.
	gallons.		gallons.
United Kingdom ...	3·57	Portugal	3·00
France..................	5·10	Holland..	4·00
Germany...............	3·08	Belgium..............	4·60
Russia........	2·02	Denmark	5·00
Austria	2·80	Scandinavia..........	4·36
Italy.....................	3·40	United States	2·65
Spain	2·85	Australasia	2·29

It is popularly supposed that Australian wines and beers ar heavily charged with spirit as compared with the imported ar This belief is erroneous. Several descriptions of Australian wines a natural strength of 30 per cent. of proof spirit, while from an recently made it would appear that the strength of these wines o for sale varies from 24 to 37 per cent. of spirit. On the same aut it was stated that imported beers ranged from 13·88 to 15·42 per in the case of English, and from 9·58 to 11·76 per cent. of proof in Lager ; while the local manufacture varied according to the from 11·21 to 15·12, the average being 13·75 per cent. It is gen understood, however, that since the imposition of excise duti colonial beer in 1887 the strength of the article has been som reduced, and does not average more than 13 per cent. of proof spi

COST OF LIVING.

The latest complete estimate of the annual expenditure of the of New South Wales was made for the year 1894. Since that ye conditions have not sufficiently changed to make it necessary to figures then obtained under many of the heads, and in the following mate most of the figures given are those which were established on basis of the year 1894 :—

	£
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	16,239,100
Fermented and spirituous liquors	4,063,000
Tobacco	1,207,600
Clothing and drapery	6,567,200
Furniture	477,200
Rent or value of buildings used as dwellings	5,661,200
Locomotion	1,600,100
Fuel and light	1,853,200
Personal attendance, service, and lodging	1,449,700
Medical attendance, medicine, and nursing	1,431,800
Religion, charities, education (not including State expenditure)	753,800
Art and amusement	998,300
Books, newspapers, etc.	758,200
State services, postage, telegrams, succession dues	654,500
Household expenses not included elsewhere	1,949,800
Miscellaneous expenses	1,199,200
Total	£46,863,900

he expenditure for the year given amounted to £36 7s. 10d. per l, or at the rate of 1s. 11¾d. per day. The daily expenditure may be distributed :—

Division of Expenditure.	Per day.	Proportion of Expenditure.
	d.	per cent.
Food	8·3	34·7
Clothing and drapery	3·3	14·0
Rent	2·9	12·1
Direct taxes	0·2	0·7
Sundries (including intoxicants)	9·2	38·5
Total	23·9	100·0

According to Mulhall, the expenditure per inhabitant in the le
countries of Europe and in the United States and Canada is as follo

Country.	Expenditure per head.	Country.	Expenditure per head.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom	29 14 9	Norway	19 0 0
France	23 19 4	Denmark	28 11 5
Germany	20 3 4	Holland	20 17 4
Russia	10 1 11	Belgium	25 8 2
Austria	14 4 9	Switzerland	18 0 0
Italy	11 11 0	United States	32 16 2
Spain	15 12 6	Canada	23 2 2
Portugal	11 5 6		
Sweden	20 8 4	New South Wales	36 7 10

The table just given affords but a partial view of the question
cost of living; for if the total earnings of the countries above e
rated be considered as an element of comparison, it will be foun
few countries approach New South Wales in the small proport
income absorbed in providing food for the people. The following
given on the same authority as the preceding, shows that whi
actual cost of food and beverage is £15 15s. 4d. in this colony, as ag
£14 4s. 9d. in Great Britain, the earnings required to pay for thi
are not larger proportionately than in the countries which appear
favourably in the table. The number of working days in the y
assumed to be 300, allowing for thirteen days' sickness and fift
Sundays:—

Country.	Average annual cost of food and beverage.	Ratio of cost of food to earnings.	Days' earnings equal to annual cost of food.
	£ s. d.	per cent.	days.
United Kingdom	14 4 9	42·2	127
France	12 4 5	44·0	132
Germany	10 18 5	49·1	148
Russia	5 19 7	52·0	156
Austria	7 17 4	50·8	152
Italy	6 4 10	51·2	153
Spain	8 9 0	51·2	154
Portugal	7 3 0	59·1	177
Sweden	9 18 11	45·2	136
Norway	9 15 0	47·6	143
Denmark	11 14 0	36·0	108
Holland	10 8 0	46·0	138
Belgium	12 3 1	43·4	130
Switzerland	8 11 7	45·2	135
United States	9 17 7	25·2	76
Canada	8 9 0	32·5	98
New South Wales	15 15 4	33·3	100

PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

rea of New South Wales is so extensive, and the population, n the sea-board, so scattered, that the determination with any s of the average prices of the various commodities consumed ter of no little difficulty. No attempt has therefore been made ain the average for the colony, and in the following pages the fer to the Metropolitan markets alone. For the earlier years ority of contemporary newspapers has been followed where the ecords were obscure or silent, but since 1836 these records have ilable, and have for the most part been adopted. The following ibits the average prices of eight commodities during each year 20 :—

Bread per 2 lb. loaf.	Fresh Beef per lb.	Butter per lb.		Cheese per lb.		Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.		Potatoes per cwt.		Maize per bushel.	
d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
5	5½	2	9	1	1	……	……		7	3	5	6
6	5½	2	8	1	2	……	……		7	3	5	0
5	5½	2	6	1	3	……	……		5	9	4	9
3½	5½	2	2	1	2	……	……		6	1	2	6
5	5½	3	0	1	4	……	……		6	10	4	10
4½	6	2	2	1	5	……	……		8	4	5	6
5½	5½	2	4	0	10	……	……		9	0	4	0
4½	6¼	2	3	1	1	……	……		8	0	5	0
6	5	2	6	1	4	……	……		18	6	9	0
7	6	1	10	1	1	……	……		12	6	7	9
4½	3½	1	0	0	11	3½	2	6	8	0	3	10
4	4½	1	8	0	6	3½	2	6	5	0	3	8
5	5	2	3	0	7	3½	2	6	5	0	4	7
4	3½	1	5	0	6	3½	2	6	10	0	2	11
5	4	1	6	0	6	3½	2	6	14	0	4	4
4	3½	1	10	0	5	3½	2	6	10	0	4	6
5½	3	1	9	0	8½	3½	2	6	7	0	6	9
3	4½	1	9	0	7½	3½	2	6	10	0	4	2
5	4½	1	6	0	8½	3½	2	6	10	6	3	7
11½	3	2	6	1	1	3½	2	6	11	0	9	0
7½	4½	2	0	1	0	3½	2	6	9	6	5	3
4¼	4½	2	6	0	10	3½	2	6	12	0	2	10
5	3½	2	6	1	1½	3¼	2	6	14	6	4	9
3½	2½	1	9	0	9	3	2	6	10	0	2	9
2½	2	1	5	0	4½	2½	1	5	4	6	1	5
2½	2½	1	6	0	6	3	1	6	4	6	2	11
3½	2¼	1	8	0	6	4	2	3	6	2	4	1
3½	2	1	2	0	7	4	2	4	5	6	2	1
3¼	2	1	1	0	8	3¾	2	0	6	0	1	8
2½	1¾	1	2	0	6¼	3¾	1	9	6	2	3	9

Year.	Bread per 2 lb. loaf.	Fresh Beef per lb.	Butter per lb.		Cheese per lb.		Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.		Potatoes per cwt.		Mai pe bush
	d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.
1850	4½	1¾	1	3	0	7	3½	1	10	7	0	4
1851	5	2¾	1	3	0	7	3½	1	4	6	0	3
1852	4½	3	1	3	0	7	3½	1	4	6	0	3
1853	6½	3½	1	5¼	0	7¼	3½	1	4	13	0	9
1854	7½	4½	2	3	0	9	5	2	6	18	6	10
1855	9	6	2	4	1	3	7	2	5	21	4	8
1856	7½	3½	1	11	1	2	5½	2	2¼	10	0	3
1857	5	3½	2	0	1	0	7½	2	6	14	6	8
1858	6	4	2	0	1	0	7	2	6	15	6	6
1859	6	4	1	10	1	0	5	2	6	8	0	3
1860	6½	4	1	6	1	10	5½	2	3	7	6	2
1861	6½	3	1	8	0	9	5½	2	4	7	3	5
1862	4½	4½	2	3	0	9	4½	2	0	8	0	5
1863	4	4¼	1	6	0	10	4½	2	0	7	0	3
1864	5½	4	1	6	0	8	4½	2	0	5	0	3
1865	7½	3	1	9	0	9	4½	2	0	8	0	3
1866	6½	3	1	3	1	0	4	2	6	6	0	4
1867	3½	2½	1	6	0	7½	4	2	0	7	0	2
1868	4	3½	1	3	0	9	4	2	0	9	0	2
1869	3½	2	1	6	0	6	4	2	0	4	0	3
1870	3½	3½	1	3	0	6	4	2	0	5	0	3
1871	3½	2½	1	3	0	7½	4	2	3	4	0	3
1872	3½	2½	1	0	0	9	4	1	9	5	0	2
1873	4	2½	1	3	0	5	4	1	9	3	6	3
1874	3½	4	1	7	0	6	4	1	9	4	9	4
1875	3	3½	1	3	0	9	4½	1	9	5	6	4
1876	3½	5½	1	3	0	7	4	1	9	4	9	3
1877	4	4½	1	6	0	6	4	2	0	4	9	3
1878	4	4	1	3	0	6	4	1	9	5	10	4
1879	3½	4	0	10½	0	6	3½	1	6	6	0	3
1880	3	3½	0	10	0	7	4	2	0	4	3	[illegible]
1881	3½	3½	0	10½	0	6½	3½	2	0	4	0	3
1882	4	4½	1	3	0	8	4	2	0	5	6	5
1883	3½	4	1	4	0	10	4	2	0	6	0	4
1884	3	4½	1	3	0	9	3½	1	6	6	6	5
1885	3	4½	1	9	1	0	3	1	9	5	6	3
1886	3½	4½	1	9	1	1	3½	1	9	6	3	3
1887	3½	4	1	4	0	10½	3½	1	9	5	0	3
1888	3	4	1	7	0	8½	3½	1	6	6	0	3
1889	3½	3	1	4	0	9	3¼	1	6	9	0	3
1890	3¼	4	1	0	0	8	3½	1	6	6	0	3
1891	3½	4	1	1	0	9	3¼	2	0	5	0	2
1892	3½	4	1	3	0	8	3	1	6	5	6	3
1893	3¼	4	1	1½	0	8	2½	1	6	6	4	4
1894	2¾	3	1	0	0	8	2½	1	6	4	6	2
1895	2¾	3	1	0	0	8	2½	1	6	4	3	2
1896	3	3	1	0	0	8	2½	1	6	5	6	[illegible]

he most noteworthy feature of the history of prices in the colony—
great range of some of the commodities during the year—is not
losed by the foregoing table. This variation is most noticeable
ing the early years, and amongst articles of local production, and
the result of the almost complete isolation of the colony from the
kets of the world. Prior to the discovery of gold, communication
letter with the outside world was at best uncertain, and as late
1878 the regular mails were made up but once a month. The
blishment of telegraphic communication, amongst other results,
had a marked effect on prices, so that except in rare instances,
for goods produced in excess of the demand, the production
Australia no longer determines the prices of goods required for
local markets. Exception must, of course, be made for perish-
produce, which is still liable to a great range in price during
course of a single year, as will be shown by some examples here-
given.

tatoes have varied in price from year to year. The lowest average
whole twelvemonth was 3s. 6d. per cwt. in 1873, and the highest
21s. 5d. in 1855, shortly after the discovery of gold; and it may
be without interest to note that from 1853 to 1855 the price
otatoes was extraordinarily high. Commencing with the year
named, the averages were 13s., 18s. 6d., 21s. 4d., 10s.,
6d., and 15s. 6d. per cwt. With regard to the variation in
gle year, the following examples may be cited:—In 1820, from
6d. to 10s. per cwt.; in 1825, from 4s. to 12s.; in 1829, from
to 26s.; in 1834, from 9s. to 19s.; in 1839, from 7s. to 25s.;
854, from 11s. to 24s.; in 1856, from 3s. to 11s.; and in 1888,
2s. to 24s.

he price of maize has not been subject to very great fluctuation,
, being little used except for horse-feed, this grain is capable of being
aced by other products; nevertheless the prices have ranged from
d. in 1844 to 10s. in 1854.

n the list given on page 825 are included quotations for bread at per
. loaf. In most years the price varied somewhat regularly with that
wheat. There are, however, exceptions to this rule, chiefly in the
rs during which wheat brought an unusually high figure, when the
e of bread was generally less than might have been expected. The
est price at which bread has been retailed was 2½d. in 1849, and the
hest was 14d. the 2 lb. loaf, which figure was paid for a short time in
9.

n addition to the eight commodities which are given on page
, the following list of the average retail prices of articles
ely used may not be without interest. The information begins
h 1836, beyond which year it is difficult to determine the exact
rage.

Year.		Eggs per doz.	Rice per lb.	Oat-meal per lb.	Coffee per lb.	Salt per lb.	Beer (Col.) per gal.	Soap per lb.	Starch per lb.	Toba per l (Col
	s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	s.
1836	...	2 2	9	...	...	...	...	4½	...	...
1837	...	2 6	...	...	1 6	1	1 0	...	...	...
1838	...	4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1839	...	3 0	...	...	1 6	...	...	4½	...	...
1840	0 10	2 9	...	...	1 4	...	...	4½	...	...
1841	0 11	2 3	...	...	1 4	...	...	4½	...	...
1842	0 10½	1 11	2	...	1 4	1	1 9	4½	...	...
1843	0 10	2 0	1½	...	0 10	0½	2 3	...	...	1
1844	0 5½	0 11	1¾	...	0 8½	1¼	1 3	3¾	...	1
1845	0 6½	1 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 7½	1½	1 1	3½	...	1
1846	0 9½	1 3	[illegible]	...	[illegible] 0	1½	2 0	5	...	1
1847	0 6½	1 1	[illegible]	6	[illegible] 1	1½	3 4	5	1 0	1
1848	0 9	1 3	3½	[illegible]	1 1	1½	3 3	5	1 0	1
1849	0 8½	1 1	3¾	[illegible]	1 0	1½	2 8	5¼	1 1	2
1850	0 8½	1 4	4	[illegible]	[illegible] 2	1¾	2 9	5½	1 0	2
1851	0 9½	1 8	4	6	[illegible] 3	1½	2 6	5¼	1 0	3
1852	1 1	1 6	4	6	[illegible] 3	1½	2 6	6	1 0	4
1853	1 2½	2 3	4¼	6	[illegible] 3	1½	2 4½	6	1 0	4
1854	1 4½	2 9	5	7½	[illegible] 6	2½	3 6	8	1 6	4
1855	0 11½	2 8	6	9	[illegible] 8	4	4 7	8	1 6	3
1856	0 10	2 2	5¼	7	1 7¼	3	3 6	7¼	1 1¼	2
1857	0 9½	1 11	5	7	[illegible] 8	2¾	4 0	7	1 0	2
1858	0 7½	2 3	6	7	[illegible] 8	4½	4 3	7	1 5	2
1859	0 8½	1 10	4¼	7	[illegible] 8	2½	4 0	6½	1 0	2
1860	1 0	1 3	5	6	1 6	2½	3 6	7	1 0	2
1861	0 10	1 6	4	6	1 6	2½	3 6	6	0 10½	2
1862	0 10	1 5	3	5	1 5	1½	2 0	4½	0 8	4
1863	0 10½	1 7	3	4	1 4	1½	1 6	4	0 7	3
1864	0 10	1 6	3	4	1 4	1½	2 0	4	0 8	1
1865	0 9¾	1 6	3	4	1 4	1½	2 0	4	0 8	2
1866	1 0	1 6	4	4	1 4	1½	2 0	4½	0 7	2
1867	0 10	1 7	3½	4	1 4	1	1 6	4	0 7	1
1868	0 9½	1 2	4	4	1 4	1½	2 0	4	0 7	1
1869	0 10	1 3	3	4	1 0	1	1 4	4	0 8	1
1870	0 10½	1 4	3	4	1 2	1	1 4	4	0 7	1
1871	0 9½	1 4	2½	2½	1 0	0½	2 3	3	0 4½	1
1872	0 9	1 1	3	3	1 1	0¾	1 4	3	0 5	1
1873	0 9	1 4	2½	2¾	1 2	0½	2 3	3	0 5	2
1874	0 8¾	1 6	3	3¾	1 4	0½	2 0	2¾	0 6	1
1875	0 9½	1 6	3	3	1 2	1½	3 0	3	0 5	2
1876	0 9	1 0	3	3	1 2	1	2 0	2¾	0 5	1
1877	0 8½	1 6	3	3¼	1 3	1	2 0	2¾	0 5	2
1878	0 9	1 3	3	3	1 3	0½	2 0	2	0 5	1
1879	0 8	1 7	2½	2¼	1 0	0½	2 0	2	0 5	1
1880	0 7½	1 4	3	3	1 5	0¾	2 0	3	0 5½	2
1881	0 7½	1 0	3	3	1 5	0¾	2 0	3	0 5½	2
1882	1 0	2 0	3¼	4	1 5	1	2 0	2½	0 6	3
1883	1 0	1 11	3	4	1 9	1	2 0	3	0 7	3
1884	0 11½	1 11	2½	3	1 4	1	2 0	3	0 6	3
1885	0 10½	1 10	3	3	1 5	0¾	2 0	3	0 6½	3
1886	0 10½	1 8	3¼	2¾	1 6	1	2 0	4	0	

Bacon per lb.		Eggs per doz.		Rice per lb.	Oat-meal per lb.	Coffee per lb.		Salt per lb.	Beer (Col.) per gal.		Soap per lb.	Starch per lb.		Tobacco per lb. (Col.)		Tobacco per lb. (imp.)	
s.	d.	s.	d.	d.	d.	s.	d.	d.	s.	d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
0	10	1	7	3	2¾	1	6	1	2	0	3½	0	6½	4	0	5	6
0	10½	1	7	3	2½	1	6	1	2	0	3¼	0	6	4	0	5	6
0	11	1	8	3	3¼	1	6	1	2	0	3½	0	6	4	0	5	6
1	0½	1	6	4	3	2	0	1	2	0	3½	0	5	4	0	6	0
0	10	1	6	3	2½	2	0	1	2	0	3½	0	5	4	0	6	0
0	9	1	6	3	2½	1	10	0¾	2	0	3	0	4½	4	0	6	0
0	11	1	6	3	2¼	1	10	0¾	2	0	3	0	4½	4	0	6	0
0	7	1	3	3	2¼	1	10	0¾	2	0	3	0	4½	4	0	6	0
0	7½	1	0	2½	2	1	9	0¾	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	6	0
0	7½	1	0	2	2	1	9	0½	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	6	0

the quotation of prices in the foregoing tables the figures given ose charged in the shops throughout the metropolitan district. It te possible that produce of all kinds may have been bought at ɛr rates than those stated ; but the figures will be found to ent the fair average rates, having regard to the class of goods ned. It is of importance to take into consideration the quality produce consumed, for very considerable changes in the direction ɪrovement have taken place in this respect. Thus, the ordinary now used, and obtainable for about 2½d. per lb., is a good white whereas some years ago only the commonest quality of moist sugar ɪund on the tables of the people. A very material improvement ɜen effected in the quality of flour, a large proportion of the t consumption being roller-made. Salt-butter still forms the bulk supply, but it is usually of recent make ; while formerly the was imported from Great Britain, and was several months old reaching the dining-table. The candles now used are made of ɪe, but the time is not remote when only the common tallow was in general use ; and so with many other articles of ordinary nption. The retail prices are those actually paid from day to day, ɔctive of the nominal wholesale rates of the commodities in the y markets.

ɔnsideration of retail prices would not be complete without a state- ɔf the price-level in different years. This can be given for foods ; present the data are hardly sufficient to establish an exact series ɕe-levels, taking into consideration all the elements of ordinary liture. The information in regard to foods is given below, the ption being made that the quantities entering into consumption he same formerly as at the present day. This assumption, how- s in some respects erroneous ; but there appear to be no other within reach to effect a just comparison. Sugar, tea, coffee, , cheese, and potatoes are now more largely used than (say) prior 0 ; but bread, or other forms in which flour is used, and meat, ɪt consumed so largely. However, when full allowance is made on this score, the following table will still be found to appro closely to the truth. The price-level is calculated on the prices r for wheat, oatmeal, rice, beef, mutton, bacon, butter, sugar, te potatoes :—

Period.	Price-level of principal Articles of Consumption.	
	1887-96 Prices =1,000.	Prices prior to 1821 =1,000.
Prior to 1821	1,739	1,000
1821 ,, 1837	1,565	900
1838 ,, 1842	1,583	910
1843 ,, 1852	995	572
1853 ,, 1858	1,816	1,044
1859 ,, 1862	1,583	910
1863 ,, 1876	1,226	705
1877 ,, 1886	1,177	677
1887 ,, 1896	1,000	575

Little practical good can be gained by comparing the prices period with those of another, unless regard is also paid to the ea of labour, and as means of comparison are afforded in the chap this work dealing with wages, it will be unnecessary to purs subject further in this place.

HOUSE RENTS.

The rents paid for dwellings form a large deduction from the ea of the manual labour class in any community. Inquiries have be on foot in order to establish, as far as possible, the relations be wages and rents; but these inquiries have not yet advanced suffic to enable an opinion to be expressed in other than general terms the city of Sydney dwellings occupied by the labouring classes rents as follow:—Three rooms, from 8s. to 9s. per week, or at the of 2s. 8d. to 3s. per room; four rooms, from 10s. per week, or 2 per room; and five rooms, 12s. per week, or 2s. 4d. per room. Dwe of more than five rooms are not often occupied by labouring families, unless there are grown-up sons and daughters who cont to the family earnings. In the suburbs of Sydney houses of the referred to bring somewhat lower rents, the ratio varying from 2s. 6d. per room; while in the provincial towns, except in rare rents are still lower.

Speaking generally, the deduction from a labourer's income fo amounts to 25 per cent., which, from whatever point it is viewed, be regarded as excessive. Two circumstances have conjoined to the rents in the metropolis high—perhaps higher when all thing considered than obtains in any of the other metropolitan citi sia—the price of land, and the rate of interest expected by holders. As regards the former, there can hardly be any that land in and about Sydney was maintained at a fictitious many years, and although lower prices for unimproved lands ruling, there can be little doubt that prices will fall still further. rest expected by property holders has been, until recently, from er cent., free of outgoings. Since 1891 a decided fall has taken d a much lower return from house property is now readily It may be stated in general terms that rents in Sydney and ave fallen by about 25 per cent. during the last five years.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

erage wholesale prices of the principal kinds of milling produce, ns, root crops, and fodder, for each month of the year 1896, with the mean prices for the year, are given in the following ts. The average for the whole year is given irrespective of tity sold in each month. In using the table it would be well ualification were borne in mind, as the apparent average by dividing the sum of the prices of each month by twelve in some instances does, differ from the true average obtained into account the total sold at each price. The figures given quoted by the middlemen, and not those obtained by the s, which will be found in the chapter of this book dealing with ral production.

Month, 1896.	Wheat.		Flour.	Bran.	Pollard.
	Milling.	Chick.			
	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per ton.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.
	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	d.	d.
	4 1¾	3 10	9 13 6	9½	10¼
	4 4½	3 10½	10 6 10	9	9¼
	4 5	3 9½	10 6 10	8	8
	4 3¼	3 7	10 3 2	8¾	8¾
	4 1	3 4	10 6 0	9¼	9¼
	4 1¼	3 4½	10 7 6	9	8¾
	4 1½	3 4½	10 7 6	8	8
	4 1	3 6½	10 2 6	7¾	7¾
	3 11½	3 7	10 2 6	7¼	7¼
	3 11½	3 7	10 9 6	8¼	8
	4 11	3 8½	10 13 4	9¼	9¼
	4 9	3 8½	12 18 0	8	8
ean Prices, 1896	4 3	3 7½	10 13 1	8½	8½

Month, 1896.	Barley.		Maize.
	Cape.	English.	
	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
January	3 1¼	2 10½	3 4¾
February	3 2½	3 0	3 4¼
March	3 1	2 10¼	2 6½
April	2 11	2 7½	2 2¾
May	2 10¼	2 7½	2 2¼
June	2 9¼	2 7½	2 2¼
July	2 9	*	2 2
August	2 9	*	2 0
September	2 8¼	*	1 11½
October	2 8	*	1 11
November	*	*	2 0¼
December	*	*	1 10½
Mean Prices, 1896	2 10½	2 9¼	2 4¾

* No quotations.

The following are the quotations given for root crops, hay
dairy produce, poultry, and bee produce for 1896 :—

Month, 1896.	Potatoes.			
	Local.	Tasmanian.	Victorian.	New Zealand.
	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January	6 18 2	6 16 8	5 17 6	6 0 0
February	5 10 4	5 9 4	4 16 8	5 4 0
March	3 11 8	4 0 4	3 10 0	3 15 0
April	3 0 0	3 12 6	*	*
May	2 9 7	3 3 5	*	2 14 4
June	2 4 3	3 1 3	*	2 12 6
July	3 18 4	4 7 0	*	*
August	3 3 2	3 16 10	*	3 6 9
September	2 11 3	3 5 11	*	3 8 9
October	2 12 0	3 7 6	*	*
November	5 1 5	4 3 2	*	*
December	3 9 2	3 12 6	*	*
Mean Prices, 1896	3 14 1	4 1 4	4 14 9	3 17 4

* No quotations.

, 1896.	Hay.	Straw.	Chaff.		Lucerne.	Derrick.
			Local.	Imported.		
	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
....	4 11 10	3 19 2	5 1 6	5 8 0	3 5 8	3 12 10
....	4 7 11	3 7 9	4 13 6	5 0 0	3 2 1	3 6 8
....	4 12 4	3 2 6	4 7 9	4 16 3	2 13 4	2 12 6
....	5 1 6	2 9 4	4 13 8	4 18 9	2 16 0	2 14 10
....	5 5 10	3 14 9	4 14 7	5 2 6	3 1 6	3 8 9
....	4 17 1	3 10 3	4 13 4	4 18 5	2 16 0	3 2 6
....	4 4 0	2 19 0	4 5 4	4 16 9	2 12 8	2 6 8
....	4 2 1	3 0 0	4 4 9	4 16 10	2 10 3	2 4 9
....	4 6 4	2 18 9	4 3 6	4 19 4	2 5 2	2 8 6
....	3 17 7	2 10 10	4 0 0	4 14 10	2 4 2	2 12 9
....	3 10 8	2 11 10	3 19 0	4 0 8	2 1 6	2 4 2
....	3 8 6	2 5 0	3 17 8	3 17 6	1 18 4	1 19 10
'rices, 1896	4 7 2	3 0 9	4 7 11	4 15 10	2 12 3	2 14 7

nth, 1896.	Butter.			Cheese.		Eggs.		Milk.
	Creamery.	Factory.	Dairy.	Loaf.	Large.	North Coast.	South Coast.	
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per doz.	Per doz.	Per gal.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
....	12	11¼	9½	6¾	6¼	10¼	11¼	12
....	11½	10½	9	6¾	6¼	12	14	12
....	8½	7½	6½	6¼	5¾	14½	15½	9
....	9	8½	7½	5	4½	15	16¾	9
....	11	11	10	5	4¾	14¼	15½	9
....	11	10½	9¼	5¾	4¾	13¼	14	12
....	11½	11½	10¼	4½	4¼	12	13	12
....	11½	11	10	4¾	4¼	7¾	7¾	12
r	10¾	10½	9	4½	4¼	6¾	7	12
....	9½	8¾	7	4¼	3¾	6¼	6¾	12
....	8½	7¾	6½	4½	4	6¾	7½	12
....	8	7¾	6¼	4¼	3½	8¼	9	12
rices, 1896	10¼	9¾	8½	5¼	4¾	10½	11½	11¼

Month, 1896.	Bacon.	Ham.	Lard, Bladder.	Porkers.	Fresh Pork.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Each.	Per lb.
	d.	d.	d.	s. d.	d.
January	6½	9	5	21 0	3½
February	7	8½	5	17 6	3½
March	7	7¼	5	17 6	3½
April	6¾	8	5	18 0	3½
May	6¼	8	5	15 9	3½
June	5¼	7¾	5	16 9	3½
July	5	7¼	*	17 9	3½
August	5¼	7¼	*	19 3	3½
September	5½	7¼	*	21 9	3½
October	6	7¾	*	22 6	3½
November	6¼	8	*	21 6	3½
December	6½	8¼	*	19 9	3½
Mean Prices, 1896	6	8	5	19 0	3½

* No quotations.

Month, 1896.	Poultry.				Bee Produce.	
	Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.	Turkeys (Cocks).	Honey.	Wax.
	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per lb.	Per lb.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.
January	3 7	3 4	4 8	12 0	2¾	12¾
February	2 11	3 0	3 6	12 6	2¾	12¾
March	2 11	2 6	3 8	11 8	2¾	12¾
April	3 0	3 0	4 4	7 6	2¾	12
May	3 0	3 0	4 0	7 6	2¾	12
June	3 0	3 1	4 0	7 2	3	12½
July	3 5	3 9	4 8	8 7	3¼	12½
August	3 3	3 11	4 10	8 6	3¼	12½
September	3 4	3 11	5 0	9 2	3¼	12
October	3 5	4 0	5 8	11 6	3¼	12½
November	3 4	3 11	5 4	10 0	3¼	12½
December	3 6	3 3	5 7	12 4	3¼	12½
Mean Prices, 1896	3 3	3 5	4 7	9 10	3	12½

Milling produce and feed grains were fairly steady in price—the former during the first ten months, and the latter during the whole ith the exception of maize. Locally-grown wheat maintained a etween 3s. 11½d. and 4s. 5d. until November, when, owing to ortness of the supply in some of the other colonies, it at once 4s. 11d. Barley and oats are for the most part imported, and ces of these cereals during the year call for little notice. Maize, contrary, is almost wholly of local growth, and its price averaged l. per bushel; falling from 3s. 4¾d. in January to 1s. 10¼d. in ber. In the various forms of fodder there was a gradual fall he high prices ruling at the beginning of the year, most of the low the average which is observable in some months being due t of quality in the commodity offered. Root crops show very range. Thus, locally-grown potatoes varied between £2 4s. 3d. 6 18s. 2d. per ton; while onions sold for £15 8s. per ton in r, as against £6 16s. 8d. in December. No quotations are given e of the columns of the foregoing tables; in the months in these omissions occur no produce was offered, or a quantity ient to merit a quotation.

wholesale prices of farm-yard and dairy produce in the Sydney s are shown in the preceding table. The figures call for little nt beyond the caution already given in regard to the prices of dities generally—that the averages are irrespective of the quan old. As regards most of the articles in the list, the lower the ne larger the consumption. The exception to this rule is poultry, is most in demand before the Christmas season, when prices are ondingly high. A comparison of the average wholesale prices for milling produce and feed grains for the last ten years is given following figures:—

Milling Produce.				Feed Grains.		
Wheat.	Flour.	Bran.	Pollard.	Barley.	Oats.	Maize.
Per bushel.	Per ton.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.	Per bushel.
s. d.	£ s. d.	d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
3 10	9 7 6	8¾	8¼	3 2	2 2	3 8
4 2	10 0 0	10¼	9¾	3 0	2 7	3 0
4 7	11 12 6	11	12	*	3 1	3 4
3 6½	9 7 6	7½	8	2 11	2 0	3 7½
4 5	11 0 0	9¾	9½	2 7	1 10½	2 7½
4 6	11 0 0	11½	11½	3 2	2 7	3 1
3 6½	8 16 2	8¼	8¾	3 0¼	2 8	3 9½
2 9½	7 9 0	7½	7¼	2 10½	2 2¼	2 2½
3 4	8 0 9	9	9	3 3	2 3¼	2 4¼
4 3	10 13 1	8½	8½	2 10½	2 2¾	2 4¾

* No quotations.

Year.	Root Crops.		Fodder.				
			Hay.			Chaf.	
						Oaten.	
	Potatoes.	Onions.	Oaten or Wheaten.	Lucerne.	Straw.	Prime.	Medium.
	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887	3 0 0	4 7 6	4 0 0	3 0 0	3 10 0	4 0 0	2 15 0
1888	4 0 0	7 0 0	4 15 0	3 17 6	2 12 6	4 15 0	3 5 0
1889	7 0 0	18 10 [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 5 0	3 15 0	6 0 0	4 10 0
1890	4 2 6	7 10 0	3 17 6	3 12 6	2 5 0	4 17 6	3 17 6
1891	2 15 0	4 10 0	4 15 0	3 0 0	2 5 0	4 5 0	3 5 0
1892	3 10 0	4 3 2	4 4 7	2 19 9	2 11 6	4 11 3	3 9 9
1893	4 14 6	6 1 2	3 10 3	3 0 5	2 3 4	4 3 4	3 15 5
1894	3 1 6	8 19 10	3 5 5	2 17 11	2 0 2	4 0 10	3 7 0
1895	3 5 8	4 6 1	£3 7 6		2 11 0	£3 16 8	
1896	4 1 10	9 0 4	4 7 2		3 0 9	4 11 10	

* No quotations.

Year.	Butter.	Cheese (Loaf).	Bacon.	Eggs.	Poultry.				
					Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.	Turkeys.	
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per doz.	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per pair.	Per
	s. d.	d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.
1887	1 1	7	7	1 4	3 6	4 1	7 0	9 5	3¾
1888	1 3½	6½	7½	1 4	3 3	3 8	6 6	9 9	3¼
1889	1 1	6	7½	1 5	4 0	4 2	6 8	9 6	2¾
1890	0 9½	4	7½	1 3¼	3 2¼	3 6½	6 0¾	9 4¾	3¾
1891	0 10	5½	7½	1 3½	3 0	3 6	5 6	8 6	4
1892	1 0	4	7	1 1	3 2	3 5	5 4	7 8	3¾
1893	0 8½	3¾	6¼	1 1	3 1¾	3 2½	4 8	7 6	3¾
1894	0 8	4	6½	0 11	3 3	3 4	4 9	7 10	2¾
1895	0 9¾	5¼	6	0 10¼	2 8	2 8½	4 2¼	6 6	2¾
1896	0 9½	5¼	6	0 11	3 3	3 5	4 7	9 10	3

The prices of the items set forth in the tables just given mined by the local, or at all events the Australasian demand, of course, being an exception, its price being fixed by that the markets of the world. The prices of pastoral and produce, which form so large a proportion of the exports of the are not sensibly affected by local consumption. No gained by showing the monthly variations, so that is ement, giving the wholesale prices of pastoral produce during 1896, the average for the year is stated :—

Commodity.		Price.
Beef	per 100 lb.	13s. 5d.
Mutton	per lb.	1¼d.
Pork	,,	3½d.
Wool—		
Merino, washed	,,	10d.
,, scoured	,,	13d.
,, greasy, good average to superior	,,	9d.
Crossbred, greasy, good superior	,,	8½d.
Skirtings, scoured, merino	,,	13d. to 14d.
,, ,, crossbred	,,	11d. to 12d.
,, greasy	,,	6½d. to 7d.
Sheepskins—		
Full wool	,,	4½d. to 5¼d.
Medium	,,	3½d. to 4d.
Short	,,	3d. to 3¼d.
Pelts	,,	2d. to 3d.
Hides—		
Cattle, heavy	,,	3½d. to 4d.
,, medium	,,	3¼d. to 3½d.
,, others	,,	2½d. to 3d.
Horse	each	5s. to 7s. 6d.
Leather skins—		
Calves	,,	2s. 6d.
Kangaroo, extra large	per doz.	20s. to 28s.
,, other	,,	3s. to 16s.
Fur skins—		
Opossum	,,	6s. 6d. to 8s.
Platypus	,,	6s. to 18s.
Bear	,,	3s. 6d.
Hair—		
Horse, mane	per lb.	1s. 4½d.
,, tail	,,	9d.
Ox, tail (washed)	,,	1s.
,, stumps	,,	4d. to 6d.
Bones—		
Shank	per ton	£5
Common	,,	£2 to £2 5s.
Horns	per 100	£1 to £1 5s.
Hoofs	per ton	£2 10s.
Tallow—		
Mutton	,,	£17
Mixed	,,	£15 15s.
Beef	,,	£15 15s.
Wattle bark—		
Good	,,	£4 10s. to £5
Medium	,,	£3 10s. to £4
Tobacco—		
Good	per lb.	4d. to 4½d.
Medium	,,	3d. to 3½d.

PRICE LEVELS.

The total value of the exports of the colony is greatly affected the prices obtained for certain leading lines of raw produce, of w wool and coal are the most important. In the following tabl price-level of domestic exports is given for thirty-seven years, begin with 1860. In order to ascertain the price-level, all the prin articles of domestic produce exported have been taken, and prices of 1896 and the average prices of the five years 1870-74 been applied to the quantities of each year, and the result comp with the actual total of such year. The value of the articles u to obtain the price-level a[illegible] in 1896 to 92·2 per cent. of domestic exports, exclusive of gold. It is considered that the sy adopted enables a truer estimate of the relative prices to be obta than that of selecting the prices of certain articles without giving weight to the quantities of such articles exported :—

Year.	Price-level of Exports.		Year.	Price-level of Exports.	
	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.		1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.
1860	2,173	1,247	1879	1,604	921
1861	2,168	1,244	1880	1,574	903
1862	2,283	1,310	1881	1,562	897
1863	2,075	1,191	1882	1,613	926
1864	2,294	1,316	1883	1,613	926
1865	2,100	1,203	1884	1,599	919
1866	2,176	1,249	1885	1,404	806
1867	2,010	1,154	1886	1,350	775
1868	2,012	1,155	1887	1,387	797
1869	1,835	1,053	1888	1,346	773
1870	1,531	879	1889	1,367	785
1871	1,873	1,075	1890	1,321	758
1872	1,706	979	1891	1,200	689
1873	1,808	1,037	1892	1,136	652
1874	1,792	1,028	1893	1,028	590
1875	1.787	1,027	1894	927	532
1876	1,692	972	1895	951	546
1877	1,552	891	1896	1,000	574
1878	1,545	887			

These figures show that there has been a great fall in the pric colonial produce exported since 1860, or still greater since 1864, from the index number 1,316 to 574, or over 56 per cent. M fluctuations, ranging to about 10 per cent., occurred between 18 1866, when the index number was about the same as in th year. From 1866 to 1870 there was a drop from 1,249 to 8 ent. A rise followed in 1871 to 1,075, or about 20 per cent., ich for four years prices continued fairly steady, until there rther decline in 1878 to 887. In 1879 the level rose to 921, the next four years prices continued without much change, 1884 to 1885 there was a fall from 919 to 806. This was l by a fairly even range until 1889, when the level stood at 785. 89 there was a steep decline to 532 in 1894, a fall of 32 per r the whole period of five years. During the following two re was a slight rise, the level for 1896 standing at 574. The ıg the whole period of thirty-seven years was about 54 per cent. seen that the purchasing power of money has steadily increased 64, if the Customs values of the exports fairly represent the ling in the general community, whether in the colony or , and that 20s. in 1896 would purchase the same articles of export which in 1864 would have cost nearly 46s.

ief articles of domestic export are wool, coal, shale, live-stock, , silver-lead and ore, copper, skins, tallow, and leather. Other ave also been exported to considerable value in times past, but ortance has disappeared, or is lost in comparison with that of ıcts just named. Wool and coal have contributed greatly to h of the colony, and the fluctuation in their prices has had a ked effect on the condition of trade. The price-level of these ies has been computed for the period which is covered by the ble just given. It will be seen that the fluctuations in the h of wool and of coal have been more marked than those in the the general exports, but the same tendency to fall is clearly iscernible:—

ear.	Price-level.			
	Wool.		Coal.	
	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.
60	2,627	1,573	2,161	1,408
61	2,915	1,746	2,131	1,388
62	2,782	1,666	2,186	1,424
63	2,487	1,489	2,032	1,324
64	2,626	1,573	1,569	1,022
65	2,317	1,388	1,537	1,001
66	2,293	1,373	1,529	996
67	2,319	1,389	1,472	959
68	2,170	1,300	1,467	956
69	1,851	1,109	1,377	897
70	1,423	852	1,277	832
71	1,912	1,145	1,253	816
72	1,639	982	1,269	827
73	1,701	1,019	1,877	1,223
74	1,674	1,002	1,998	1,302

Year.	Price-level.			
	Wool.		Coal.	
	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870-74 prices = 1,000.
1875	1,643	984	1,998	1,302
1876	1,578	945	1,984	1,293
1877	1,503	900	1,955	1,274
1878	1,427	855	1,942	1,265
1879	1,521	911	1,921	1,252
1880	1,540	922	1,558	1,015
1881	1,533	918	1,115	726
1882	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,415	922
1883	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,513	986
1884	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,519	990
1885	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,519	990
1886	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,505	981
1887	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,479	964
1888	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,527	995
1889	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,478	963
1890	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,495	974
1891	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,434	934
1892	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,295	844
1893	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,221	796
1894	[illegible]	504	1,041	678
1895	[illegible]	560	982	640
1896	[illegible]	599	1,000	652

A similar table for silver is given below, commencing with the 1884, when silver-mining in New South Wales first became an imp industry, owing to the discovery of the Silverton and Broken mines :—

Year.	Price-level of Silver.	
	1896 prices = 1,000.	1884 prices = 1,000.
1884	1,637	1,000
1885	1,575	962
1886	1,466	896
1887	1,441	880
1888	1,386	847
1889	1,379	842
1890	1,543	943
1891	1,456	889
1892	1,286	786
1893	1,173	717
1894	919	561
1895	970	593
1896	1,000	611

must not be supposed that the colony is altogether a loser by the the prices of its exports, because the power of those exports to ase imports must also be taken into consideration. It will, therebe necessary to consider also the price-level of imports. As there no reliable data on which price-levels for imports can be based prior 70, the table commences with that year :—

Year.	Price-level of Imports.		Year.	Price-level of Imports.	
	1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870–74 prices = 1,000.		1896 prices = 1,000.	Average of 1870–74 prices = 1,000.
1870	1,394	966	1884	1,244	862
1871	1,400	970	1885	1,140	790
1872	1,463	1,014	1886	1,120	776
1873	1,486	1,030	1887	1,130	783
1874	1,472	1,020	1888	1,124	779
1875	1,388	962	1889	1,172	812
1876	1,362	944	1890	1,160	804
1877	1,310	908	1891	1,107	767
1878	1,299	900	1892	1,062	736
1879	1,244	862	1893	1,022	708
1880	1,253	868	1894	971	673
1881	1,240	859	1895	961	666
1882	1,234	855	1896	1,000	693
1883	1,254	869			

may be said generally that the fall in prices was somewhat in favour exports up to the year 1889. Since then the exports have fallen on the average values at a much more rapid rate than the imports. arer view of the operation of the fall in prices will be obl from the table which is given below, showing the price-levels nports of merchandise for home consumption, and exports mestic produce, for periods of five years, with the relative fall ent. :—

Period.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Average of five years, 1870–4, prices = 1,000.	Decline in prices in five years, per cent.	Average of five years, 1870–4, prices = 1,000.	Decline in prices in five years, per cent.
1870–74	1,000	......	1,000	......
1875–79	915	8·5	940	6·0
1880–84	863	5·7	914	2·8
1885–89	788	8·7	787	13·9
1890–94	738	6·3	644	18·2
1895–96	680	7·9	560	11·5

It will be seen that, assuming the index number of the fiv
1870–4 to be 1,000, the fall in the succeeding five years was 8·5 pe
for the imports as compared with 6·0 per cent. for the exports.
average value of the imports for the five years ending with 18
5·7 per cent. less than in the preceding quinquennial period, w
the difference in the value of the exports was 2·8 per cent.; nevert
the index number for 1885–9 for both imports and exports wa
tically the same figure. As already mentioned, the fall for the
which has since elapsed has been much more heavy in regard
exports than for the imports.

New South Wales, in common with the other Australasian co
is chiefly affected by the fall in prices because it is a debtor co
Certain calculations whi [illegible] en made show that the annual
payable by the Stat [illegible] n mu [illegible] lities on their indebtedness to l
and foreign credito [illegible] £2, [illegible] 00, while the earnings of inves
made in the colony by private persons, or drawn by absentees, a
to £2,798,000 per annum. As the whole of the interest on Gove
and municipal loans has to be paid by exports irrespective of the
prices, and as a large portion also of the interest payable to f
investors is in the same category, the fall is a matter of very seri
portance to these colonies, viewed as debtor States. Fortunate
increase of production in New South Wales as compared wit
population has been such as partly to counteract the fall in prices
is impossible to believe that the probable increase of producti
compensate the colony for a renewed fall at the alarming rate at
the decline took place during the four years ended 1894.

DEFENCE

EW South Wales was garrisoned with British troops from the time of its foundation as a colony until the year 1870. For t of the years 1870 and 1871 the colony was without regular troops, defence being entirely in the hands of the Volunteer Force. In 1871 cal regular defence force was enrolled, comprising one battery of illery and two companies of foot. The latter were disbanded in the wing year ; but the Artillery was strengthened by a second battery 1876, and a third in 1877. In 1888 the permanent force, which il that year had consisted of only one arm, was extended to include s of Submarine Miners and Mounted Infantry. The latter, however, ed to exist in 1890 ; but a fourth battery was added to the Artillery, in 1891 a third arm was again raised in the form of a Medical Staff ps.

o supplement the Imperial troops in Australia, a volunteer force enrolled in 1854, Great Britain being then at war with Russia. Act authorising the establishment of this force was 18 Vic. No. 8. original strength of the corps was one troop of Cavalry, one battery Artillery, and six companies of foot, called the 1st Regiment of New th Wales Rifles ; but with the termination of the Crimean war the lunteers practically ceased to exist. A few years later, in 1860, second force was enrolled, consisting of one troop of Mounted les, three batteries of Artillery—two being stationed at Sydney, l one at Newcastle—and twenty companies of Infantry, fourteen which were recruited from Sydney and its suburbs, and six from country districts ; the total strength of all arms being about 00 men. The existence of the Mounted Rifles was brief, for y were disbanded in 1862, and more Artillery raised in their stead. the following year a Naval Brigade was enrolled to assist in defence of the colony by sea. In 1868 the military force was rganised under the Volunteer Regulation Act, passed towards the se of the previous year, each man receiving a grant of 50 acres of d for five years' efficient service. The land orders, however, were olished in 1874, and a direct system of partial payment introduced. 1878 a further reorganisation of the Volunteer troops of the colony k place in accordance with a plan drawn up by Sir William Jervois, d the present force is serving under the Act of 1867 as amended in at year. A corps of Naval Artillery Volunteers, who were to receive remuneration, but only an allowance for instruction and incidental expenses, was raised in 1882, and it was followed a few years numerous bodies of military reserves, comprising all the princip on the same footing; but all were gradually disbanded or merge partially-paid forces of the colony, until at the end of 1895 th body of the Scottish Rifles was the only one which was strictly to be classed as a Volunteer corps. In 1896, however, three ri designated the Irish Rifles, the St. George's Rifles, and the Au Rifles, were raised. The Scottish and Irish Rifles comprise Regiment; the Australian Rifles, the 6th Regiment; and George's Rifles, the 7th Regiment. A "National Guard," c of old volunteers of the colony, or men who have served elsewh also been established.

The total defence forc [illegible] colony at the end of 1896 n 6,027 officers and men, distributed as follows:—

Permanent Troops:—	
Headquarters Staff	56
General Staff	10
Permanent Staff	81
Artillery	431
Engineers (Submarine Miners)	26
Army Service Corps	6
Medical Staff Corps	11
Total	621
Partially-paid Troops:—	
Lancers	381
Mounted Rifles	355
Field Artillery	146
Garrison Artillery	469
Engineers—Field	116
Submarine Miners	75
Electricians	77
Infantry	2,422
Army Service Corps	58
Medical Staff Corps	99
Total	4,198

**Volunteers:—*	
Scottish Rifles	
Irish Rifles	
St. George's Rifles	
Total	
Honorary:—	
Chaplains	
Medical Officers	
Total	
Naval Volunteer Force:—	
Naval Defence Force Staf	
Naval Brigade	
Naval Artillery Volunteer	
Torpedo Boats	
Total	
Grand Total	

* Australian Rifles and National Guard not recruited at close of 1896.

PERMANENT TROOPS.

The actual strength of the Military Forces of the colony on December, 1896, was 5,447, or 781 below the establishmen large deficiency was chiefly caused by the fact that the Australi and the National Guard had not been recruited at that date. manent Troops numbered 621 of all ranks. The Headquart were, of course, all located in Sydney. Of the General Sta stationed in Sydney, 2 in the Western, 1 in the South-weste in the Northern District; while of the Permanent Staff, 4 Sydney, 4 in the Southern District, 14 in the Western, western, 2 in the South Coast, and 12 in the N

Army Service Corps, Medical Staff Corps, and Submarine Miners ll stationed in the Metropolitan District, where are also located the lery, with the exception of the small garrisons manning the forts e South Coast and Northern Districts. The rates of pay of the lery, exclusive of allowances, were on the 31st December, 1896 :— er commanding, £730; lieutenant-colonel, £420; brigade-major, £384; rs, £356; captains, £321; lieutenants, £180 to £216; warrant-rs, 7s. 10d. to 9s. 9d. per diem; sergeant-majors and quartermaster-ants, 5s. 5d. to 6s. 4d. per diem; sergeants, from 4s. to 6s. 10d. per ; corporals, 3s. 4d. per diem; bombardiers, 3s. 2d. per diem; peters, 2s. 3d. per diem; master gunners, 6s. 10d. to 7s. 10d. per diem; ers, 2s. 3d. per diem. The Submarine Miners are paid as follow :— er commanding, £384; sergeants, from 7s. 4d. to 8s. 4d. per diem; rals, from 5s. to 6s. 4d. per diem; sappers, 4s. per diem, and r, 2s. 3d. per diem. The Artillery man the batteries guarding harbours of Sydney, Botany Bay, Wollongong, and Newcastle; t guard at the vice-regal residence, and perform such other duties ually appertain to a garrison. The troops are a fine body of The minimum height at which recruits are accepted is 5ft. 6in. rivers, and 5ft. 8in. for gunners.

e British military authorities afford facilities to New South Wales rs to gain a better knowledge of the duties of their profession than could acquire in the colony, by sanctioning their attachment rps serving in India. These facilities have on several occasions taken advantage of, and an insight into the routine of the large nments has been gained, as well as actual experience of the sharp aigning which is often going on in that country.

PARTIALLY-PAID TROOPS.

e Partially-paid Troops and Volunteers of the colony consist of n arms in addition to the honorary staff of chaplains and medical rs, the total strength of the force being 4,793 men of all ranks, as n in the preceding table. The Medical Staff Corps was raised in , and originally consisted of one company, a second being added 893. It is stationed in Sydney.

he cavalry regiment known as the New South Wales Lancers was raised in 1885 as a volunteer reserve corps, under the name of the t Horse; but in 1888 the men were merged in the partially-paid ps, under their present designation. They provide their own horses equipment, their uniform and arms being supplied by the Government. regiment is distributed throughout three districts, as follows :—

Sydney and Suburbs	95
South-western District	95
Northern District	191
Total	381

Unlike the Lancers, the Mounted Rifles were directly enrolle 1889 as a partially-paid body, being strengthened by the inclusion part of the Light Horse already alluded to. They now number distributed as follows:—

Western District	132
Northern District	90
Southern District	44
South Coast District	45
South-western District	44
Total	355

The Artillery consist of ı of all ranks, of whom 146 c pose the field batteries. They were first enrolled in 1867, whe batteries, one of which was a field battery, were formed. In 188 unpaid force of four batteries was raised as a reserve, but two of t were broken up in 1892, and the others included in the partially-p force, forming a second field battery. In the following year the Volun field batteries were united with the permanent one to form the Brig Division Field Artillery. The oth atteries were designated the Se Garrison Division Artillery, the st Garrison Division being the manent force. The men are distributed over three districts, the stre of each being:—

Sydney	453
Northern District	76
South Coast District	86
Total	615

The Engineers are located in Sydney. As originally forme 1867, they consisted of one field company. Torpedo and signal corps were recruited ten years later, and in 1890 another field c pany was raised. In 1893 the whole force was united with the pe nent Submarine Miners to form a corps of Engineers. The torpedo signalling corps were respectively designated Submarine Miners Electricians, the regulars forming the permanent section of the firs these corps. The Field Companies number 116 men of all ranks; the Volunteer Submarine Miners and the Electricians are, respectiv 75 and 77 strong.

The present Infantry Regiments, known as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, were originally designated the Sydney, South Sydney, Western Northern Battalions. In 1885 unpaid foot reserves were raised 5th and 6th Regiments, the former consisting of the present S Rifles. The infantry reserves, however, were gradually and many of the men were formed into Reserve Rifle the remainder in 1892 being absorbed by the 1st, 2nd, ments when their establishment was raised from eight to ten anies. At the end of the same year the Rifle Companies were dised, and Civilian Rifle Clubs formed, and these clubs, now estimated clude 2,000 men, were enrolled as a Reserve Corps for existing ents in 1895. In 1894 the partially-paid regiments of infantry strengthened by the absorption of the "Senior Cadets," the older ion of a cadet force established in connection with the public schools e colony ; the younger division, known as the Cadet Force, and now bering 3,164 youths, remaining under the control of the Minister ublic Instruction. As already stated, Volunteer Corps, known as rish Rifles, Australian Rifles, and St. George's Rifles, were raised 896, the first-mentioned body, with the Scottish Rifles, forming 5th Regiment, and the other corps, the 6th and 7th Regiment ctively. The reserve force was strengthened by the formation of National Guard, the members of which have had some military rience either in regular or volunteer forces. The infantry force is ibuted over six districts, the strength of each being :—

Sydney and Suburbs	1,269
Southern	297
Western	588
South-western	121
Northern	622
South Coast	120
Total	3,017

e Army Service Corps was raised in 1881 under the title of the missariat and Transport Corps, its designation being changed two later. It comprises 58 officers and men, all of whom are stationed e metropolis.

olunteers are admitted between the ages of 18 and 40 years. To as efficient, the Artillery are required to attend 2 out of 3 e-day parades, 6 out of 8 half-day parades, and 12 out of 16 t parades and shot practice ; the Engineers (Field Companies) to nd 2 out of 3 whole-day parades, 9 out of 14 half-day parades, and t of 12 night drills ; the Submarine Miners, 14 out of 17 whole-training in camp ; the Infantry and Mounted Brigade, 2 out of 3 le-day parades, 9 out of 13 half-day parades, and a complete course usketry ; Army Service Corps and Medical Staff Corps, 2 out of 3 le-day parades, and 6 out of 8 half-day parades. Annual inspection the General Officer Commanding or his representative is included in foregoing. Pay is granted to all ranks according to a sliding scale, ners, sappers, and privates receiving 8s. for each whole-day parade, for a half-day parade, and 2s. for a night parade. In addition to e sums, every Volunteer who passes through the musketry course qualifies as a marksman is granted 12s. ; and, if he should qualify

at the end of the year as an efficient, a further sum of £1 12s
he be a Submarine Miner, in which case he is granted £2 for
and £2 16s. for extra proficiency.

In 1880 the Imperial military authorities conferred upon th
of the Sydney University the privilege of annually nominating a
to a cadetship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. T
missions in the British Army are also granted to the Sydney a
Australian Universities under certain conditions.

NAVAL VOLUNTEER FORCE.

[illegible] bje [illegible] ig the Imperial fleet on the A
S [illegible] sufficiently strong to resist a
[illegible] ent [illegible] ween Great Britain and a
[illegible], the [illegible] ral [illegible] ia, a few years ago, entered
agreement wi [illegible] Imperial [illegible] overnment by which an A
Squadron of seven fast and powerful cruisers and gunboats was
exclusive service in Australian waters. The combined fleets n
fewer than seventeen vessels, and under the circumstances it is
sary that New South Wales should have any navy of its own,
ships of war which it possesses being two small torpedo b
Acheron and the Avernus. The colony, however, has en
its service two bodies of naval volunteers, who receive a smal
payment, and who would prove very useful as a reserve fro
crews could be partly drawn for the three vessels of the A
Squadron which are laid up in times of peace.

The first of these bodies is the Naval Brigade, which was en
1863. It consists largely of time-expired seamen of the Roy
discharged from the ships on the Australian Station. At the
time there are no facilities for drilling the men at sea, an
manœuvres hitherto carried out they have mostly been emplo
light artillery land force. The Brigade consists of six compan
prising 17 commissioned officers, 24 petty officers, 12 other offi
276 men classed as A.B. Of this force, 277 are stationed in Sy
52 at Newcastle.

The other arm of the naval service is known as the Naval
Volunteers. This body was organised in 1882, and for the
years received no payment, the Government merely supplying
uniforms, and annually allowing a sum for instruction and i
expenses; but in July, 1892, the corps was included am
partially-paid forces of the colony. The men have been train
use of the torpedo, and would be found serviceable for the
the harbour should a hostile fleet evade or overcome the
Australian war vessels. The strength of the corps
all ranks, including 15 officers and 23 petty of

In addition to these there are five men belonging to the corps re in charge of the Acheron and the Avernus. There are also taff officers, bringing the total strength of the naval forces up to all ranks.

THE IMPERIAL FLEET.

headquarters of the Imperial Fleet and the Australasian Auxiliary ron are situated at Port Jackson, under an arrangement with the ial authorities, by which the Government of the colony undertook e up Garden Island for the purposes of a naval station, and to hereon the requisite buildings, as well as to provide certain other modation required for the war vessels in the harbour. In consion of this it was agreed that Sydney should be the headquarters Australian Fleet, and that the Imperial Government should give claim to certain lands and buildings owned by them in the colony, ing the Paddington Barracks, the Domain, and Botanic Gardens e old Commissariat Stores, as well as other valuable properties. following is a list of the Imperial war-vessels now on the Ausan station under Rear-Admiral Bridge. The Penguin, Dart, and witch are engaged in surveying service :—

Class.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.	Length.	Beam.	Armament.	Speed.	Coal endurance.	
						Guns.		Coal that can be carried in bunkers.	Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed.
	tons.		ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.		knots.	tons.	knots.
Twin-screw cruiser, 1st class, armoured.	5,600	8,500	24 8	300 0	56 0	Two 9·2-in. 22-ton B.L.R., 10 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R., 16 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 7 M., 3 L.	18·5	900	7,000
Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,400	17 9	200 0	38 0	Fourteen 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 8 M., 1 L.M.	13·1	425	6,600
Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,400	16 7	200 0	38 0	Two 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L.	13·1	425	6,000
Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,510	16 11	200 0	38 0	Two 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L.	13·1	425	6,600
Screw gunboat, 1st class.	715	1,000	12 6	165 0	29 0	Six 4-in. 25-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M.	12·7	105	2,500
Screw gunboat, 1st class	805	1,200	13 3	165 0	30 0	Six 4-in. 26-cwt. B.L.R., 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M.	13·0	105	..
Screw sloop ..	960	1,100	14 6	180 0	32 6	Six 4-in. Q.F. guns, 4 3-pr. Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 45-in. Maxim.	13·25	130	2,000
Screw sloop ..	1,130	700	14 0	180 0	38 0	Two 64-pr. M., 1 L., 2 M.	10·0	200	..
Screw yacht..	470	200	12 11	133 0	25 2	2 L., 2 M.	8·8	70	..
Screw yacht.	479	250	12 6	140 0	26 0	2 L., 2 M.	9·0	64	..

Muzzle-loading rifled guns; Q.F., Quick-firing guns; M., Machine guns; L., Light guns under 15 cwt.; B.L.R. Breech-loading rifled guns.

The hull of the Orlando is of steel; and those of the other are of composite materials. The Orlando has a 10-inch armour at water-line, with 3-inch armoured deck, and 12-inch conning and in addition to the armament mentioned in the table, she h torpedo tubes.

As opportunity offers, the Admiral on the station is empowe grant commissions, for periods not exceeding six months, to offi the naval forces of the colonies, in order that they may gain experience of the conditions under which modern naval warfare is tised. Four cadetships and three engineer studentships in the Im Navy are given annually to Colonial boys, who must not be less 13 nor more than 14½ years of age. The cadets undergo a cou instruction for two years on board the Britannia training-ship befor receive a commission.

THE AUSTRALASIAN AUXILIARY SQUADRON.

Under the provisions of the Australasian Naval Force Act, whi assented to on the 20th December, 1887, all the colonies have e into an agreement with the British Government for the paymen subsidy towards the maintenance of an Australian Auxiliary Squ The annual subvention payable by the colonies amounts to £91,0 maintenance and £35,000 as interest charge on the cost of constr at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, making a total of £126,0 which New South Wales, according to population, would bear £3 for the year 1897. The fleet, which entered Port Jackson on th September, 1891, consists of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gun Of these, three cruisers and one gunboat are always kept in commi the remainder being held in reserve in Australasian ports, but for commission whenever circumstances may require their use. vessels in reserve at the present time are the Ringarooma and Boomerang; while the Katoomba is used as the guardship of Reserve. The agreement is for a period of ten years, and is then, the end of any subsequent year, terminable, provided two years' shall have been given. The Australasian Governments have no whatever in the management of the vessels, nor any control over movements. On the termination of the agreement the vessels remain the property of the Imperial Government. The strength of fleet in Australian waters before the Australasian Squadron was is maintained.

Particulars respecting the vessels of the Australasian Aux Squadron will be found below. The Boomerang and Karrakatta classed as torpedo gun-boats; all the other vessels are third-class cruisers. The deck armour over machinery space is 2 in. and 1 in.

ing towers 3 in., except in the case of the torpedo boats, the f which have 1-in. armour :—

	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.	Length.	Beam.	Armament.		Speed.	Coal endurance.	
						Guns.	Torpedo tubes.		Coal that can be carried in bunkers.	Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed.
	tons.		ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.			knots	tons.	knots.
....	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	Eight 4·7 Q.F. guns, eight 3-pr. Q.F. guns, one 7-pr. M.L.R. gun (boat and field), four 4·45 in. 5 barrel Nordenfeldt.	4	16·5	300	6,000
a ..	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	do ..	4	16·5	300	6,000
....	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	do ..	4	16·5	300	6,000
....	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	do ..	4	16·5	300	6,000
....	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	do ..	4	16·5	300	6,000
g ..	735	3,500	10 8	230 0	27 0	Two 4·7 in. Q.F. guns, four 3-pr. Q.F. guns.	3	*18·75	160	2,500
..	735	3,500	10 9	230 0	27 0	do ..	3	*18·75	160	2,500

eed can be increased until, under favourable conditions, for a short period, a maximum s can be obtained. Q.F.—Quick-firing guns.

ie event of any of the squadron being lost the vessel is to be l by the British Government.

Fortifications.

arious points along the coast of New South Wales, extensive itions have been constructed, and Sydney, protected as it is by s of defence, is regarded as almost impregnable. Botany Bay gly fortified, and the works there form the southern defence of ropolis; while to the north, Newcastle, the great coal port of the has also been rendered as secure as possible against attack ; and e coast, to the south, fortifications have been constructed at the f Bulli and Wollongong.

fications have been erected at King George's Sound and Thurs-nd at the joint cost of the five Australian colonies. In the se, one-fourth of the cost is borne by Western Australia (which supplies the garrison), and three-fourths by the other colo a population basis; while, in the other, each of the colonies contrib according to the number of its inhabitants. It is probable that important strategic points of Hobart and Port Darwin will be f fied under a somewhat similar agreement in the near future.

EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCE.

e diture by the State during 1896–7, from the Consolid P defence works and the Permanent and Volunteer Fo as follows:—

	£	£
Permanent and Part orces	....	158
Naval Forces	....	4
Federal Defence:—		
King George's Sound	799	
Thursday Island	2,345	
Naval contribution	37,989	
Total	....	41
Other Expenditure:—		
Rifle Associations	1,815	
Royal Naval House	200	
Military Secretary	1,917	
Military Pensions	1,187	
Total	....	5
Grand total	....	213

Whatever opinion may be entertained of the present condition o defences of the colony, there can be no doubt that a very large s money has been expended upon them. The details cannot no ascertained respecting the earlier defences of the harbour of Port Jac such as Fort Phillip, where the Observatory now stands, Fort Macq and Fort Denison, which, with the batteries at Dawes' Point, Ki and Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, were thought to render Sydney impregnable some forty years ago, when the ponderous artillery use had not been invented. The returns of expenditure for purposes since the assumption of responsible government available and are appended hereto. It will be observed t forty and a half years no less than £4,576,647 was solidated Revenue, or an average of £113,004 per annum, for rvices:—

Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.	Year.	Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
£	£	£		£	£	£
31,824	538	32,362	1879	92,216	5,219	97,435
23,974	3,296	27,270	1880	72,712	5,683	78,395
18,376	6,089	24,465	1881	80,215	5,810	86,025
30,373	2,910	33,283	1882	96,387	12,858	109,245
68,085	2,275	70,360	1883	117,554	15,202	132,756
24,188	4,330	28,518	1884	147,725	14,960	162,685
18,845	1,943	20,788	1885	224,318	18,895	*243,213
25,789	1,054	26,843	1886	200,488	18,696	219,184
14,522	2,508	17,030	1887	156,681	6,670	163,351
18,167	3,522	21,689	1888	158,479	9,210	167,689
23,762	3,772	27,534	1889	206,457	11,582	218,039
30,824	4,096	34,920	1890	224,352	11,195	235,547
31,278	3,570	34,848	1891	275,343	12,085	287,428
22,241	3,612	25,853	1892	240,258	81,746	322,004
31,952	3,964	35,916	1893	205,425	13,925	219,350
43,055	3,995	47,050	1894	219,158	53,200	272,358
48,567	4,886	53,453	†1895	109,498	42,592	152,090
81,223	5,034	86,257	1895-6	173,580	47,546	221,126
39,092	5,213	44,305	1896-7	166,119	46,895	213,014
62,385	5,548	67,933				
117,263	5,565	122,828	Total...	3,760,340	516,141	4,576,647
87,590	4,618	92,208				

ive of £121,630, cost of sending Australian Contingent to the Soudan. † Six months.

dition to the sums paid out of current revenue, a large amount noney has been expended in the erection of fortifications, which pected will serve for the protection of future generations of s as well as the present. The details of this expenditure are v:—

Previous to 1871..... .... £80,805.

	£		£
....	43,601	1886........................	61,814
....	24,466	1887........................	8,350
....	35,134	1888........................	122,296
....	22	1889........................	56,440
....	368	1890	46,982
....	4,506	1891........................	111,896
....	3,735	1892.................	54,478
....	33,227	1893........................	17,128
....	21,270	1894........................	15,183
....	14,582	*1895........................	2,414
....	22,640	1895–6......................	17,629
....	39,757	1896–7......................	11,102
....	24,819		
....	4,683	Total....	£934,056
....	54,729		

* Six months.

Another source of expenditure to the colony is that of th
Station in Port Jackson, to which reference has been made u
heading of the Imperial Fleet. In carrying out the works at
Island and the alterations at Kirribilli Point the following exp
has been incurred :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Am
	£		
1885	642	1893	3
1886	33,928	1894	3
1887	15,431	*1895	
1888	52,013	1895–6	
1889	15,574	1896–7	
1890	42,768		
1891	42,201	Total	£30
1892	23,373		

* Six months.

It thus appears that the total amount spent by the colony
South Wales for defence purposes from the beginning of
1857 to the 30th June, 1897, was £5,986,498, or an average
£147,815 per annum. The items which make up this amount
recapitulated thus :—

From Consolidated Revenue	4,5
Loans—Fortifications and Warlike Stores	9
Naval Station, Port Jackson	3
Value of Land alienated in virtue of Volunteer Land Orders, computed at £1 per acre	1
Total	£5,9

PUBLIC FINANCE.

SYSTEM OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS.

ON the 18th November, 1895, an Act amending the Audit Act of 1870 was assented to. By this Act it was declared "that all appropriations from the Consolidated Revenue Fund shall lapse at the close of the financial year to which they refer, and from the 1st day of July, 1895, the cash receipts within the financial year shall be considered as the actual income, and the cash payments during the same period, the actual outlay." This amounted to a complete revolution in the system of keeping the public accounts, introducing what is usually termed the "cash basis," a system of accounts which obtains in several of the adjoining colonies, and has been found to work in the interests of economy and good government. Under the system that has been superseded, the expenditure for the services of a year and the actual expenditure during that year could only be shown by two different systems of accounts. When a specific appropriation was made for any service the expenditure incurred under such authorisation would be charged against the year for which the vote was taken, irrespective of the date when the payments were made; and for this reason the public accounts for any year could not be closed until all appropriations lapsed, or were written off or exhausted. As a matter of practice, when the expenditure exceeded the income, there were frequent differences of opinion between the incoming and outgoing Treasurers as to the propriety of charging items, sometimes of large amount, to particular years, with the result that conflicting and irreconcilable statements were made, to the confusion of the uninitiated and the detriment of public credit.

In order to show how unfavourably Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue realised compare with one another, the following statement has been compiled. The figures cover ten and a half years, during which period the revenue appropriated exceeded that realised in year :—

Year.	Appropriations for Services of each year, irrespective of the year in which the appropriation was made.	Gross Revenue.	Excess of Appropriation
	£	£	£
1887	9,053,862	8,582,809	471,053
1888	9,138,985	8,886,332	252,653
1889	9,493,776	9,066,941	426,835
1890	9,809,183	9,494,584	314,599
1891	10,758,952	10,036,185	722,767
1892	11,288,413	10,501,104	787,309
1893	10,513,158	9,706,734	806,424
1894	10,203,957	9,459,235	744,722
*1895	4,923,339	4,558,569	364,770
†1896	9,491,592	9,253,939	237,653
†1897	9,922,856	9,287,000	635,856

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

Taking the figures as they stand, it will be seen that from January, 1887, to the 30th June, 1897, there was appropriated public service the sum of £104,598,073, while the actual re obtained was £98,833,432. Fortunately, the expenditure ac incurred was below that authorised by Parliament, so that the f just given merely show what might have happened had the author Parliament been fully availed of. The actual excess of expend however, as will be seen from the statement given below, was suffic serious in itself. The figures are exclusive of advances repai made:—

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Gross Expenditure charged against year.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
	£	£	£	£
1887	8,582,809	8,799,156	....	216,347
1888	8,886,332	8,625,563	260,769	....
1889	9,066,941	9,151,437	....	84,496
1890	9,494,584	‡9,569,683	....	75,099
1891	10,036,185	‡10,578,230	....	542,045
1892	10,501,104	‡10,868,021	....	366,917
1893	9,706,734	‡9,816,875	....	110,141
1894	9,459,235	‡9,694,889	....	235,654
*1895	4,558,569	‡4,862,184	....	303,615
†1896	9,253,939	‡8,925,651	328,288	....
†1897	9,287,000	‡9,439,820	....	152,820

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.
‡ Includes redemption of Treasury Bills in aid of Revenue.

has been pointed out in previous issues that a comparison could be made between the revenue and expenditure of 1890 and equent years, as the accounts for those years were not closed. This liarity of the public accounts, which is strikingly shown in the wing table, brought down to 1897 (the accounts for which are tically closed) is now removed consequent on the passing of the it Act Amendment Act of 1895 (59 Vic. No. 10) :—

r in the nts aid.	Expenditure charged against the undermentioned years :—							
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.*	1896.†	1897.†
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
90	8,629,708	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
91	793,556	9,633,045	......	......	......	......	......	......
92	142,847	735,988	9,648,604	......	......	......	......	......
93	3,572	203,696	1,115,496	8,966,258	......	......	......	......
94	......	5,431	90,939	611,289	8,778,225	......	......	......
95	......	13	8,682	83,899	772,224	4,059,535	......	......
96	......	57	2,954	155,429	144,080	650,286	8,899,411	......
97	......	......	1,346	......	360	152,363	26,240	9,439,820
	‡9,569,683	‡10,578,230	‡10,863,021	‡9,816,875	‡9,694,889	‡4,862,184	‡8,925,651	‡9,439,820

* Half-year ended 30th June. † Year ended 30th June.

‡ Includes Redemption of Treasury Bills in aid of Revenue.

he expenditure charged against 1891 extended over six years, and unted to £10,578,230, of which £9,633,045 only was incurred during year, and £945,185 in the following years; and as further illusing the anomalies of the old system, it may be mentioned that the nue for the year was £10,036,185, or £542,045 less than the l outgoings, and only £403,140 more than the expenditure within chargeable to the year, although a possible further expenditure of 125,907 had been provided for. Such being the ordinary condition ccounts, it will without difficulty be conceded that under so loose a em a succession of deficits was only to be expected.

ne unacquainted with the peculiarities of State finance might find ard to understand how it is possible for a large deficit to have mulated, and an expenditure in excess of revenue to have been still her indulged in. The explanation is simple. Through the opera of various Acts of the Legislature, and the accumulations in the t Office Savings Banks, the Treasury has at its disposal large sums rust, and by the use of this money the accumulated deficits have temporarily met. When in 1889 the deficit was consolidated, and

Parliament authorised the issue of Treasury Bills to pay it off, th bills were not issued to the public, but, by entries in the books of t Treasury, the necessary sum was drawn from the Trust Funds in ha and invested in the bills. This was only a formal operation, as t money had already been loaned to the revenue, and the issue of t bills simply turned a floating debt into one for a fixed term.

The references to appropriations would be incomplete without t subjoined statement, which shows the total appropriations for t services of each year subdivided into three heads. The amounts giv in the first two columns taken together represent the Estimates in-chi for each year:—

Year ending 31st December.	Amount appropriated during year.		Amount appropriated in subsequent years.	Total amount authorised to be expended from Consolidated Reven from January, 1887, to June, 1898.
	Special appropriation (Fixed Statutory Liabilities).	Annual Votes.		
	£	£	£	£
1887	2,082,306	6,398,360	573,196	9,053,862
1888	2,090,326	6,416,595	632,064	9,138,985
1889	2,126,379	7,067,272	300,125	9,493,776
1890	2,481,145	6,742,928	585,110	9,809,183
1891	2,533,116	7,117,053	1,108,783	10,758,952
1892	2,756,958	8,045,007	486,448	11,288,413
1893	2,924,195	7,105,478	483,485	10,513,156
1894	3,028,297	6,750,537	425,123	10,203,957
*1895	1,472,412	3,405,451	45,476	4,923,339
†1896	2,759,564	6,705,697	26,331	9,491,592
†1897	2,663,223	7,259,663	....	9,922,856
†1898	2,936,937	6,635,460	....	9,572,397

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

It will be noticed that there is a large annual expenditure provi for under Special Acts apart from the annual appropriations of Par ment. The special appropriations form a primary charge on each yea revenue collections.

GENERAL BANKING ACCOUNT.

The subjoined table has been inserted in order to make clear Government banking operations. It shows each of the main acco under which the Government conducts its financial business, as t subsidiary accounts are operated on under one or other of the headi

The Audit Act defines that all the accounts coming under constitute the Public Account; however, for convenience he Public Account includes only the Consolidated Revenue rust Funds subject to the Audit Act, and special suspense hese accounts, with the General Loan Account, and the not subject to the Audit Act, form the "General Account." e of this account for banking purposes is operated on under l Banking Account"; and, in establishing the daily balance, e of the credits is set against that of the debits, and so long r exceeds the latter the whole banking account is in credit. sent time, the Trust Funds, to which attention will be y directed, largely assist in keeping the account in credit. f the main divisions of the General Account on the 30th , will be found below:—

Head of Account.		Credit Balances on 30th June, 1897.		
		Amount invested in Securities.	Credit Cash Balance.	Total.
		£	£	£
t—				
(subject to Audit Act)		4,523,639	3,543,059	8,066,698
l Revenue Fund—	£			
ed Debit ..	2,363,139			
ary Bills cur-				
0th June, 1897	2,477,584			
e .. .. *Cr.*	114,445			
ense Accounts—				
ost Office New-street				
nption Account .. .. *Dr.*	469,263			
l Park Account .. .. *Dr.*	224,372			
General Loan Account.. *Dr.*	1,500,000	....	*Dr.* 2,079,190	*Dr.* 2,079,190
ce of "Public Account," on ne, 1897 .. .. £		4,523,639	1,463,869	5,987,508
Account		....	682,803	682,803
not subject to Audit Act—				
an Redemption Fund		....	75,000	75,000
Wales 1924 Stock Redemption Fund ..		....	13,204	13,204
Wales 1925 Stock Redemption Fund ..		....	14,817	14,817
otes Withdrawal Account		....	110	110
easurer's Special Trust Accounts		318,554	184,359	502,913
e of "General Account" on ne, 1897 .. .. £		4,842,193	2,434,162	7,276,355

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

885 the state of the Revenue Account has been unsatisfactory, ncome has not been equal to the expenditure; hence a large s accumulated, or, more properly speaking, two deficits—that and previous years, which was liquidated by Treasury bills ring 1889 and 1890; and the deficit accumulated during the

period subsequent to that date. The credit or debit balance Consolidated Revenue Fund for each year since 1870 was as foll

Year ending 31st Dec.	Gross Revenue including advances repaid.	Gross Expenditure including advances made.	Annual—		Accumulated—		
					Deficiency.		
			Deficiency.	Surplus.	Treasury Bills outstanding.	Cash Overdraft.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1870	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1871	2,727,404	3,126,147	398,743	....	....	396,684	396,684
1872	3,195,070	2,696,048	....	499,022	....	....	....
1873	3,395,897	2,603,166	....	792,731	....	....	....
1874	3,569,364	3,668,827	99,463	....	....	....	....
1875	4,584,410	4,299,024	....	285,386	....	....	....
1876	5,583,828	4,749,013	....	834,815	....	....	....
1877	5,883,246	5,477,979	....	405,267	....	....	....
1878	5,243,864	5,672,154	428,290	....	....	....	....
1879	5,507,986	6,089,151	581,165	....	....	....	....
1880	5,783,687	5,685,079	....	98,608	....	....	....
1881	7,377,787	5,890,580	....	1,487,207	....	....	....
1882	7,410,737	6,449,418	....	961,319	....	....	....
1883	6,670,582	8,048,319	1,377,737	....	....	....	....
1884	7,433,511	8,715,189	1,281,678	....	....	....	....
1885	7,589,296	8,815,733	1,226,437	....	....	....	....
1886	7,998,871	9,283,353	1,289,482	....	....	1,286,581	1,286,581
1887	8,683,943	9,556,657	872,714	....	....	2,159,296	2,159,296
1888	9,583,700	9,006,048	....	577,652	....	1,581,643	1,581,643
1889	9,350,347	9,474,778	124,431	....	1,907,100	*Cr.* 201,026	1,706,074
1890	9,951,600	9,861,077	....	90,523	2,352,884	*Cr.* 737,333	1,615,551
1891	10,184,371	10,595,666	411,295	....	2,202,884	*Cr.* 176,038	2,026,846
1892	10,876,152	10,794,360	....	81,792	2,052,884	*Cr.* 107,830	1,945,054
1893	10,178,004	10,527,885	349,881	....	1,902,884	392,051	2,294,935
1894	9,905,712	9,828,376	....	77,336	1,752,884	464,715	2,217,599
*1895	5,259,419	4,961,154	....	298,265	1,752,884	166,450	1,919,334
†1896	9,394,558	9,776,278	381,720	....	2,777,584	*Cr.* 476,530	2,301,054
†1897	9,469,681	9,531,766	62,085	....	2,477,584	*Cr.* 114,445	2,363,139

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

The transactions in connection with the Consolidated Fund and the accumulated actual deficiency for the year end June, 1897, were as follow :—

Dr.			Cr.	
Gross Revenue collected during 1896-7—	£	£	Amount of Accumulated Deficiency of the Consolidated Revenue Fund on 30th June, 1896—	£
Taxation	2,458,074		Treasury Bills current on 30th June, 1896..	2,777,584
Land Revenue	1,953,430		Cash Credit Balance on 30th June, 1896..	476,530
Receipts for services rendered	4,599,706		Payments during 1896-7—	
General miscellaneous receipts	275,790		For services of 1895-6 and previous years	30,309
Total Revenue ...	9,287,000		For services of 1896-7	9,289,820
Advances repaid	182,681	9,469,681		
Debit Balance—				
Treasury Bills current	2,477,584		Total payments	9,320,129
Cash Credit Balance..	114,445		Advances made	211,637
Actual Deficiency on the 30th June, 1897	......	2,363,139		
Total.......... £	......	11,832,820	Total ....£	......

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

ible information respecting the revenue and expenditure of the dates from 1815, in which year the public receipts amounted to 9, and the expenditure to £19,980. From 1815 to 1840—the ear being memorable in the annals of the colony as that in which ortation ceased—the advance in the revenue was very rapid. In he public receipts amounted to £683,112—a sum not again reached 853, two years after the discovery of gold. From 1853 to 1859 venue made great strides, and amounted to £1,522,668 for ar last mentioned. In December, 1859, the separation of land took place, and consequently a falling off in the revenue d in the following year, the amount collected being £1,308,925. oss and net revenue proper for the years given in the table were w :—

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Refunds, including charges on collections.	Net Revenue proper.			
			Total.	Per Inhabitant.		
	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
1860	1,308,925	28,209	1,280,716	3	14	9
1865	1,771,162	38,680	1,732,482	4	6	8
1870	2,102,697	52,978	2,049,719	4	3	8
1875	4,121,996	100,360	4,021,636	6	17	7
1880	4,904,230	97,841	4,806,389	6	11	11
1881	6,707,963	156,829	6,551,134	8	11	3
1882	7,410,737	192,151	7,218,586	9	0	10
1883	6,470,341	243,720	6,226,621	7	8	7
1884	7,117,592	280,813	6,836,779	7	14	10
1885	7,587,368	206,817	7,380,551	7	19	2
1886	7,593,050	218,235	7,374,815	7	12	2
1887	8,582,809	205,854	8,376,955	8	6	9
1888	8,886,332	172,148	8,714,184	8	8	2
1889	9,066,941	191,211	8,875,730	8	6	5
1890	9,494,584	188,893	9,305,691	8	8	11
1891	10,036,185	263,405	9,772,780	8	10	11
1892	10,501,104	327,537	10,173,567	8	12	3
1893	9,706,734	207,482	9,499,252	7	16	11
1894	9,459,235	158,492	9,300,743	7	10	4
*1895	4,558,569	80,054	4,478,515	3	11	7
†1896	9,253,939	179,161	9,074,778	7	2	0
†1897	9,287,000	179,504	9,107,496	7	0	5

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

figures relating to revenue, both above and in subsequent tables, lusive of "Advances repaid"; and in dealing with expenditure nces made" have been excluded from consideration, as transactions hese heads do not affect the ordinary revenue and the expenditure om. The terms "net revenue" and "net expenditure," used both here and in subsequent pages, are to be taken as meaning and exper ture freed from the transactions just mentioned.

The net xpenditure for years corresponding with those in the statemen is given in the subjoined table, it being assumed on a cash basis—that is, that each year's busines that year. The term used in the table, "expendit urrent year," must not be taken in a literal sense, a four y during the last decade has the revenue sufficed for the ture. will be seen by comparing the annual expenditu belo the revenue for the corresponding years show prec ble :—

Year.	Net Expenditure.			Net Expenditure per Inh	
			Total.	From Revenue of current year.	From Accumulated Surplus.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860	1,284,568	......	1,284,568	3 15 0	......
1865	1,696,127	......	1,696,127	4 4 10	......
1870	2,550,002	......	2,550,002	5 4 1	......
1875	3,240,964	......	3,240,964	5 10 11	......
1880	5,129,028	331,287	5,460,315	7 0 9	0 9 1
1881	5,218,226	407,523	5,625,749	6 16 5	0 10 8
1882	5,631,499	524,160	6,155,659	7 1 0	0 13 2
1883	6,818,303	732,065	7,550,368	8 2 8	0 17 6
1884	7,531,771	598,426	8,130,197	8 10 7	0 13 7
1885	8,113,510	241,610	8,355,120	8 15 0	0 5 3
1886	8,786,808	72,469	8,859,277	9 1 3	0 1 6
1887	8,976,102	13,815	8,989,917	8 18 8	0 0 4
1888	8,471,755	20,211	8,491,966	8 3 8	0 0 4
1889	8,995,751	5,693	9,001,444	8 8 9	0 0 1
1890	9,210,992	3,677	9,214,669	8 7 2	0 0 1
1891	10,065,606	......	10,065,606	8 16 0	......
1892	9,931,411	......	9,931,411	8 8 1	......
1893	9,931,658	......	9,931,658	8 4 1	......
1894	9,178,706	......	9,178,706	7 8 4	......
*1895	4,844,299	......	4,844,299	3 16 11	......
†1896	9,523,057	......	9,523,057	7 9 0	......
†1897	9,140,625	......	9,140,625	7 0 11	......

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

From 1872 to 1877—years notorious for the wholesale alien the public estate—the yearly income was considerably in exce annual payments, with the result that a large surplus was creat excess payments of 1878 and 1879 reduced the amount some the surpluses of 1881 and 1882 considerably augmented After the year last mentioned, however, large withdraw ally made, and the fund became practically exhausted at Since that date the existing deficit has been accumulati

SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Revenue is classified under four heads—Taxation, Land Revenue, pts for Services Rendered (such as revenue from railways, tram- water supply, sewerage, posts, telegraphs, and fees of various); and General Miscellaneous Receipts. The net revenue falling each of these four heads, during 1880 and subsequent years, is below :—

	Net Revenue from—							
	Taxation.		Land Revenue.		Receipts for Services rendered.		General Miscellaneous Receipts.	
	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
	1,379,065	1 17 10	1,605,327	2 4 1	1,585,635	2 3 6	236,362	0 6 6
	1,739,494	2 5 6	2,724,341	3 11 3	1,930,332	2 10 5	157,037	0 4 1
	1,861,663	2 6 8	2,797,470	3 10 1	2,347,623	2 18 9	211,830	0 5 4
	1,851,737	2 4 2	1,498,577	1 15 8	2,649,687	3 3 3	231,620	0 5 6
	2,100,713	2 7 7	1,579,021	1 15 9	2,910,275	3 5 11	246,770	0 5 7
	2,206,429	2 7 7	1,769,616	1 18 2	3,128,815	3 7 6	275,001	0 5 11
	2,552,506	2 12 8	1,543,958	1 11 10	3,046,692	3 2 10	231,659	0 4 10
	2,583,486	2 11 5	2,312,972	2 6 0	3,201,768	3 3 9	278,729	0 5 7
	2,626,097	2 10 8	2,210,638	2 2 8	3,001,381	3 9 7	276,068	0 5 4
	2,635,002	2 9 5	2,050,425	1 18 5	3,866,137	3 12 6	324,166	0 6 1
	2,704,043	2 9 1	2,158,645	1 19 2	4,121,008	3 14 10	321,995	0 5 10
	2,875,028	2 10 3	2,117,003	1 17 0	4,542,432	3 19 6	238,317	0 4 2
	3,345,265	2 16 8	2,066,564	1 14 10	4,527,867	3 16 7	244,871	0 4 2
	2,777,846	2 5 11	2,115,185	1 14 11	4,361,017	3 12 0	245,204	0 4 1
	2,688,693	2 3 5	2,078,751	1 13 7	4,236,631	3 8 6	296,668	0 4 10
	1,288,781	1 0 7	1,037,683	0 16 7	1,989,248	1 11 10	162,803	0 2 7
	2,493,622	1 19 0	1,976,240	1 10 11	4,209,219	3 7 4	305,697	0 4 9
	2,306,412	1 16 11	1,898,835	1 9 3	4,558,626	3 10 4	253,623	0 3 11

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

TAXATION.

toms and Excise duties, License fees, Land and Income taxes, and duties represent the various forms of taxation in force in the ; and if these are grouped under the generally accepted classes of ct and direct taxes, it will be found that Customs and Excise duties and License fees comprise the indirect taxation, while the Land and Income taxes and the Stamp duties come under the latter head. Below will be found a statement showing the revenue derived from each source of taxation during 1895–97. No Land tax was collected in 1895–6.

Head of Revenue.	*1895.	†1896.	†1897.
Indirect Taxation—			
Customs :—	£	£	£
Import Duties :—			
Spirits, wine, ale, and beer	347,370	728,998	748,612
Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, and opium	130,090	262,834	273,955
Sugar and molasses	67,662	174,707	126,869
Grain and pulse	26,387	43,581	....
Other specific duties	194,254	392,061	124,089
Ad valorem duties	192,350	212,222	4
Miscellaneous collections	5,076	10,816	7,186
Total, Customs	963,189	1,825,219	1,280,715
Excise :—			
Ale, beer, and porter	60,414	125,475	130,777
Duty on tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	63,372	138,100	139,799
Other	5,367	8,251	6,561
Total, Excise	129,153	271,826	277,137
Licenses :—			
To retail fermented and spirituous liquors	67,693	96,157	94,546
Other	14,669	26,952	26,993
Total, Licenses	82,362	123,109	121,539
Direct Taxation—			
Income Tax	....	27,658	305,316
Land Tax	....	....	141,022
			446,338
Stamp Duties :—			
Impressed and adhesive stamps	53,217	112,240	121,278
Probate, administration, and settlement duty	56,801	136,060	143,423
Other	37,563	70,004	67,639
Total, Stamp Duties	147,581	318,304	332,345
Gross Revenue from Taxation	1,322,285	2,566,116	2,458,074
Refunds	33,504	72,494	61,662
Net Revenue from Taxation	1,288,781	2,493,622	2,396,412

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

The Customs tariff has undergone considerable change since 1871, no less than five principal Acts and three important amending dealing with the tariff have been passed during the interval. Customs Duties Act of 1895, assented to on the 12th December, provided for the abolition of all import duties hitherto in force, he 1st January, 1896, or on a later date named therein; the articles excepted being spirits, wines, beer, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, opium, the duties on which remained the same as before. The wing are the tariff changes since May 1871 :—

when sed.	Act.	To take effect from	Alterations made.
y, 1871	34 Vic. No. 21 (repealing all previous Acts).	9 Mar., 1871	Specific duties largely increased. *Ad Valorem* duties of 5 per cent. imposed.
v., 1873	37 Vic. No. 5 (repealing parts of 1871 Act).	1 Jan., 1874	The number of articles subject to duty reduced. Duty imposed on Sarsaparilla containing more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit. *Ad Valorem* duties of 5 per cent. abolished.
, 1880	43 Vic. No. 16 (amending Act).	10 Dec., 1879	Duties on Spirits, Spirituous Compounds, and Wines increased.
il, 1884	47 Vic. No. 10 (amending Act).	20 Feb., 1884	Duties imposed on Stearine and Cigarettes. Duties on Cigars, Tobacco, and Opium increased. The limit of under-proof allowance of spirits fixed at 16·5. The reputed contents of cases containing Spirits, Beer, and Wine regulated.
, 1886	50 Vic. No. 16 (repealing the 1871, 1873, 1880, and 1884 Acts, or the unrepealed portions of them).	7 April, 1886	The number of articles charged specific duties largely increased. *Ad Valorem* duties of 5 per cent. reimposed. Duty on Perfumed Spirits increased.
y, 1887	51 Vic. No. 8 (repealing 1886 Act).	1 Oct., 1887	The number of articles charged specific duties considerably reduced. *Ad Valorem* duties of 5 per cent. abolished.
		1 May, 1887	Duties on Malt and Hops abolished.
		30 Mar., 1887	Duties on Spirits and Spirituous Compounds increased.
		30 Mar., 1887	New schedule of specific duties at lower rates.
, 1892	55 Vic, No. 16 (repealing 1887 Act).	2 Dec., 1891	The number of articles subject to specific duties increased. *Ad Valorem* duties of 10 and 15 per cent. imposed.
		1 Jan., 1893	10s. per ton duty imposed on Pig-iron.
		1 Mar., 1892	Duty on Tea abolished.
, 1895	59 Vic. No. 18 (repealing 1892 Act).	1 Jan., 1896	Abolishes all duties previously levied, except those on Narcotics and Stimulants. Certain duties, viz., those on Sugar, Candles, Oils, Biscuits, Confectionery, Fruit, Jams and Jellies and Preserves, are gradually reduced over a period ranging from 1½ to 4½ years before being finally removed.

ior to 1884 the only excise duty in force was on locally-distilled ts. In the year named, however, tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes factured in the colony were added to the list; and in 1887 an e tax on beer was imposed, while the duty on distilled spirits was ased from 12s. to 14s. per proof gallon. Further particulars regard- customs and excise duties will be found in chapter dealing with merce.

he changes in the customs and excise tariffs during the past ten a half years can be traced in the figures given in the subjoined , which represent the net collections under each head. It will be noticed that the largest revenue from customs and excise dutie collected during 1892 :—

Year.	Net Revenue from—			Per Inhabitant.		To
	Customs.	Excise.	Total.	Customs.	Excise.	
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
1887	1,933,179	204,008	2,137,187	1 18 6	0 4 1	2
1888	1,834,860	258,415	2,093,275	1 15 5	0 5 0	2
1889	1,868,652	260,136	2,128,788	1 15 1	0 4 11	2
1890	1,857,843	264,447	2,122,290	1 13 9	0 4 10	1
1891	2,132,414	287,026	2,419,440	1 17 4	0 5 1	2
1892	2,593,839	288,094	2,881,933	2 3 10	0 4 11	2
1893	2,076,817	264,167	2,340,984	1 14 3	0 4 5	1
1894	[illegible]	256,664	2,072,359	1 12 6	0 4 2	1
*1895	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0 14 10	0 2 1	0
†1896	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1 7 6	0 4 3	1
†1897	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,533,022	0 19 4	0 4 3	1

* Six months en[illegible]une. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

The revenue from licenses exhibits little variation from year to The amount received during the year ended 30th June, 1897, distri under the principal heads, was as follows :—

Licenses.	Amount.	Licenses.
	£	
Wholesale spirit dealers and brewers	6,930	Auctioneers
To retail fermented and spirituous liquors	94,546	Hawkers and pedlars
To retail Colonial wine, cider, and perry	1,700	Pawnbrokers
Distillers and rectifiers	106	Gunpowder Act
Billiard and bagatelle	6,832	Sale of tobacco and cigars
		Other
		Total

The table does not include the revenue from licenses issued to men, fishing-boats, bonded warehouses, and by the Mines Departm

In 1886 the Stamp Duties Act of 1880 was amended, the alters being the abolition of the 1 per cent. general rate, and the adopti a graduated scale of duties on the estates of deceased persons, clas as follows:—Where the value of the estate is under £5,000, 1 per £5,000 and under £12,500, 2 per cent.; £12,500 and under £2 3 per cent.; £25,000 and under £50,000, 4 per cent.; over £50,0 per cent. During 1893 an amendment was inserted providing f exclusion from duty of estates valued at £200 gross and under that The Bank Notes Act of 1893 provided for the increase of the a composition duty on bank notes from 2 to 2½ per cent. on all issued within the colony. As the Act mentioned lapsed in Nove 1895, the composition charged since that date has been at the old

As already mentioned, the bulk of the Customs duties hithe force were abolished as from the 1st January, 1896, duties on sti and narcotics being alone permanently retained. To meet the thus given up, taxes on land and incomes were sanction ment. The land tax is at the rate of 1d. in the £ on the

, with an exemption of £240 on all estates, and a special exemption vour of municipal corporations and religious, educational, and institutions of a like character. Where land is mortgaged the r is also allowed to deduct from the tax a sum equal to 6d. in the the interest paid on the mortgage. The income tax is levied on ncomes earned in the colony but not directly derived from the rship, use, or occupancy of land, whether improved or not, and is e rate of 6d. in the £ on all incomes, subject to a general exemption 200. The total amount of income tax collected during the year g 30th June, 1897, was £305,316. The first collections under the tax were made in October, 1896, and by the 30th June, 1897, a of £141,022 had been collected.

e subjoined table gives the gross and net amounts of taxation ted during the period from 1880 to 1897, and the alterations referred the various duties may be traced in the return presented :—

Indirect.			Direct.			Gross Revenue from Taxation.	Refunds	Net Revenue from Taxation.
Customs.	Excise.	Licenses.	Stamps.	Income Tax.	Land Tax			
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,225,440	[illegible],354	112,107	72,303	....	....	1,417,294	38,229	1,379,065
1,458,076	3,705	115,964	192,503	....	....	1,770,848	31,424	1,739,424
1,552,706	5,637	116,932	228,138	....	....	1,903,413	41,750	1,861,663
1,546,857	12,193	117,688	214,975	....	....	1,891,708	39,971	1,851,737
1,728,811	79,967	120,028	226,049	....	....	2,152,855	52,142	2,100,713
1,759,955	116,497	122,695	253,504	....	....	2,252,651	46,222	2,206,429
2,068,571	109,920	125,438	307,993	....	....	2,611,822	59,316	2,552,506
2,011,947	204,420	126,432	321,749	....	....	2,664,548	81,062	2,583,486
1,883,058	250,576	129,591	409,658	....	....	2,681,883	55,786	2,626,097
1,905,883	261,371	130,396	379,519	....	....	2,677,169	42,167	2,635,002
1,888,321	265,887	133,156	460,975	....	....	2,748,339	44,296	2,704,043
2,168,265	288,198	133,103	326,778	....	....	2,916,344	41,316	2,875,028
2,677,890	289,603	132,500	349,794	....	....	3,449,787	104,522	3,345,265
2,127,645	265,554	129,644	311,723	....	....	2,834,566	56,720	2,777,846
2,065,839	258,122	124,677	297,062	....	....	2,745,700	57,007	2,688,693
963,189	129,153	82,362	147,581	....	....	1,322,285	33,504	1,288,781
1,825,219	271,826	123,109	318,304	27,658	....	2,566,116	72,494	2,493,622
1,280,715	277,137	121,539	332,345	305,316	141,022	2,458,074	61,662	2,396,412

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

LAND REVENUE.

New South Wales, as well as in the other colonies in the group, whole of the receipts from the sale and occupation of Crown lands reated as public income. The proceeds from occupation, being can with consistency be regarded as an item of revenue; but the ment of the proceeds of auction, conditional purchase, and other s of sales as ordinary revenue is open to grave objection.

e revenue derived from lands may be grouped under three main —(*a*) auction sales and other forms of unconditional sale; (*b*) itional sales or lands disposed of under the system of deferred pays; (*c*) rents from pastoral, mining, and other classes of occupation. first two sources have been amalgamated under the head of aliena-; while the last is classed as occupation.

More than half the annual receipts from land are
alienation, as will be seen from the following table, which
detail the revenue from 1895 to 1897 :—

Head of Revenue.	*1895.	†1896.
Alienation.		
Sales, etc. :—	£	£
Auction sales	32,242	60,349
Other	4,136	7,547
Total	36,378	67,896
Conditional Purchases :—		
Deposits and improvements	23,717	28,199
Instalments and interest	682,747	893,549
Interest (under Act of 1861)	71,989	80,755
Balances	63,253	63,838
Homestead Selecti	....	3,386
Total	841,706	1,069,727
Total, Alienation	878,084	1,137,623
Occupation.		
Pastoral :—		
Pastoral leases	2,744	344,634
Conditional leases	64,544	155,501
Occupation licenses	9,923	126,216
Homestead leases	38,491	77,100
Annual and other leases	7,256	53,277
Quit rents	323	611
Total	123,281	757,339
Mining :—		
Mineral leases	2,785	11,093
Leases of auriferous lands	4,115	15,069
Miners' rights	9,964	10,857
Royalty on minerals	3,153	9,221
Other	1,485	2,910
Total	21,502	49,150
Total, Occupation	144,783	806,489
Miscellaneous Land Receipts.		
Survey fees	11,117	23,411
Rents, special objects	6,595	16,780
Timber licenses, royalty, etc.	3,430	6,631
Other	9,343	26,802
Total	30,485	73,624
Gross Revenue from Lands	1,053,352	2,017,736
Refunds	15,669	41,496
Net Revenue from Lands	1,037,683	1,976,240

* Six months ending 30th June. † Twelve months ending 30th June.

The annual income from public lands has varied considerabl
the 1861 Act became law. In 1864 the minimum revenue was
the gross amount received being only £297,866, equivalent to
per inhabitant ; while in 1877, the year of maximum revenue,
receipts amounted to £3,236,277, or £5 2s. 11d. per
Prior to the passing of the 1884 Act the whole area of
was available for free selection, including the areas held
leases. The Act mentioned, however, improved the

oralist by granting him fixity of tenure of one half of his run for
rm of years, the leasehold half being exempt from conditional
hase during his tenure; but the leases were appraised at a higher
which considerably increased the revenue from this source in the
ving years. In 1890 an Act was passed under which the rents of
n leases, as appraised in 1884, were determined anew; and in cases in
the new appraisement was less than the previous one, the Govern-
refunded the amount which had been overpaid, with interest at
cent. The first refunds under the Act were made during 1892,
ich year the amount, including interest, was £128,259, while the
sponding amount for 1893 was £392, and for 1894—the last year
ich a refund was made—only £32.

or to the passing of the 1884 Act the only forms of lease granted
pastoral, annual, special, and pre-emptive. Under the Act men-
d provision was made for the continuance of each of these forms of
except the pre-emptive, which was abolished; and occupation
es, and conditional and homestead leases, were established. The
ementary Act of 1889 provided for five additional forms of lease,
were as follow:—Scrub, snowland, artesian well, residential, and
or land. Under the Land Act of 1895 three new forms have
provided for.

e gross revenue derived from alienation and occupation, and the
and net land revenue, from 1880 to 1897, were as follow:—

	Alienation.		Occupation.		Gross Revenue from Lands.	Refunds.	Net Revenue from Lands.
	Sales, etc.	Conditional Purchases. ‡	Pastoral. §	Mining, etc. ‖			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	731,353	650,674	237,660	26,749	1,646,436	41,109	1,605,327
	1,415,460	1,067,879	309,170	28,480	2,820,989	96,648	2,724,341
	1,306,300	1,148,741	430,417	28,936	2,914,394	116,924	2,797,470
	338,234	931,235	358,957	27,643	1,656,069	162,492	1,493,577
	411,202	952,281	344,096	45,765	1,753,344	174,323	1,579,021
	535,508	778,849	517,156	44,939	1,876,452	106,836	1,769,616
	375,458	830,965	391,749	45,846	1,644,018	100,060	1,543,958
	349,585	872,192	1,100,423	56,795	2,378,995	66,023	2,312,972
	316,034	896,249	941,521	114,449	2,268,253	57,615	2,210,638
	214,691	934,480	917,491	70,901	2,137,563	87,138	2,050,425
	225,387	1,153,377	785,116	79,159	2,243,039	84,394	2,158,645
	191,696	1,154,979	848,960	71,001	2,266,636	149,633	2,117,003
	224,164	1,015,175	915,378	59,345	2,214,062	158,498	2,055,564
	252,782	1,044,710	849,652	59,123	2,206,267	91,082	2,115,185
	234,408	1,052,198	789,278	49,291	2,125,175	46,424	2,078,751
	36,378	852,823	139,219	24,932	1,053,352	15,669	1,037,683
	67,896	1,093,138	800,921	55,781	2,017,736	41,496	1,976,240
	68,599	1,082,516	748,780	53,535	1,953,430	54,595	1,898,835

months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June. ‡ Includes Survey Fees.
les all Miscellaneous Receipts except Survey Fees and Timber Licenses. ‖ Includes
Licenses.

The land policy of the colony, though largely connected with finances, will be more properly discussed in the part of this work d ing with land settlement. It may here be sufficient to say that large revenue obtained from the sale of Crown lands during the ye preceding 1883 was not due to the demand created by the norm p gress of settlement, but was the outcome of an unhealthy rivalry betw the two principal classes of settlers—the pastoral tenants and the f selectors. The estate of the country was being parted with with any conditions as to improvements or settlement; and as the g object of land sales was not so much to obtain revenue as to pro settlement, it was decided to sell by auction only a limited area (200, acres) during any one year. To this determination is to be attribu the falling off in the revenu [illegible] he head of sales for 1883 and subsequent years.

RECEIPTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

Receipts from the railways and [illegible]amways, water supply and sew age, and post and telegraphs cons[illegible]ute the bulk of the revenue fr services, the balance under this hea[illegible] being made up chiefly of dues fees of various kinds.

The total revenue has consider[illegible] increased of late years, and also has the expenditure, the fig[illegible]s shown being not wholly an in of progress. The only services [illegible]ch can be considered as self porting—that is to say, yielding [illegible]icient revenue to cover work expenses and interest on capital debt—are the railways, tramways, metropolitan water supply and sewerage, and the Hunter district w supply, the first mentioned showing a surplus for the year 1896-7 a an interval of fifteen years. The gross receipts received under the h of each service during the period 1895 to 1897, were as follow:—

Service.	*1895.	†1896.	†18
	£	£	£
Railways	1,310,793	2,866,012	3,06
Tramways	144,180	290,515	30
Post and Telegraphs—			
Postage	214,076	476,399	48
Electric Telegraphs	75,705	148,548	15
Telephones	16,926	29,855	[illegible]
Commission on money orders, etc.	10,179	21,766	[illegible]
Water Supply and Sewerage—			
Metropolitan—Water Supply	81,215	166,078	17
Sewerage	43,432	84,453	[illegible]
Hunter District Water Supply	11,342	19,845	[illegible]
Public school fees	35,189	73,519	[illegible]
Pilotage, harbour and light rates, and fees	25,710	66,259	[illegible]
Mint receipts	6,854	14,333	[illegible]
Miscellaneous services	41,206	97,108	[illegible]
Gross revenue from Services	2,016,809	4,354,790	[illegible]
Refunds	27,561	55,571	[illegible]
Net revenue from Services	1,989,248	4,299,21	

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th Ju

ie **gross** revenue derived annually from each of the principal services, the net revenue from all sources, from 1880 to 1897, were as r :—

ar.	Railways and Tramways.	Post and Telegraphs.	Water Supply and Sewerage (Metropolitan and Hunter).	Other Services.	Gross Revenue from Services.	Refunds.	Net Revenue from Services.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
80	1,189,564	286,134	......	118,384	1,594,082	8,447	1,585,635
81	1,459,684	330,414	... ..	154,977	1,945,075	14,743	1,930,332
82	1,828,094	358,525	......	176,466	2,363,085	15,462	2,347,623
83	2,081,128	403,794	......	181,810	2,666,732	17,045	2,649,687
84	2,302,013	442,964	......	197,666	2,942,643	32,368	2,910,275
85	2,492,691	472,564	......	203,208	3,168,463	39,648	3,128,815
86	2,389,062	486,210	......	214,075	3,089,347	42,655	3,046,692
87	2,510,335	524,298	......	211,273	3,245,906	44,138	3,201,768
88	2,759,280	562,909	90,089	242,415	3,654,693	53,312	3,601,381
89	2,875,135	597,988	147,071	301,573	3,921,767	55,630	3,866,137
90	3,013,921	629,894	232,519	293,081	4,169,415	48,407	4,121,008
91	3,439,283	648,553	245,821	266,197	4,599,854	57,422	4,542,432
92	3,416,496	650,635	255,641	263,113	4,585,885	58,018	4,527,867
93	3,253,272	643,849	275,954	238,867	4,411,942	50,925	4,361,017
94	3,148,720	626,864	275,835	233,416	4,284,835	48,204	4,286,631
95	1,454,973	316,888	135,989	108,959	2,016.809	27,561	1,989,248
96	3,156,527	676,668	270,376	251,219	4,354,790	55,571	4,299,219
97	3,367,552	706,120	281,511	244,523	4,599,706	41,080	4,558,626

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

e net revenue just given should be read with the rates per inhabi- for the same years, which will be found on page 863. The ne derived by the Government of the country from services has, little interruption, been steadily increasing ; this, however, is only would naturally be expected in a growing community, but it is 'actory to be able to record that the income compared with the lation has also been fairly well sustained, the check since 1892 ; accounted for by the general depression. It will be seen from able on page 863 that the rate per head in 1896-7 was £3 10s. 4d. ; 386, £3 2s. 10d. ; and in 1880, £2 3s. 6d. The increase in the n from services is undoubtedly largely due to the construction ilways, from which three-fourths of such revenue are derived. pared with the population, the value of the production of the y is enormous ; but as much of this production is due to the ness of the territory, and not directly to the labours of those who y it, its value will, under present conditions, cease to increase at ame rate as does the population ; and, moreover, as the revenue

from services naturally depends upon the amount of production, the
per inhabitant will not only cease to increase, but will ultimately dec

With the exception of 84½ miles of private railways, and 6¾ mil
private tramways, the services under these heads are those of
administration. According to a statement in the Auditor-Gen
Report for 1891, the Railway service yielded a small net profit,
all expenses had been met, in 1881 and 1882. Since those period
net revenue did not equal the interest payable until the year 18
when a surplus of £27,127 over working expenses and interest
secured.

It will be noticeable that during 1896-7 the revenue from both ser
increased; but as the expenditure also shows an increase, the
to the country was not so great as the figures would appa
show. The tramways [illegible] only 1·98 per cent.; in 189
1893 the net profit equ[illegible] and 5·51 per cent. respectively;
in 1894 it declined to 4·07 per cent., and for the year ended
1897, a further decline to 3·98 was experienced. The questions of
way and tramway earnings and expenditure are dealt with at le
in the chapter on internal communication.

The collections under the head of water supply and sewerage in
the returns of the Boards operating in the metropolitan area and
Hunter River district. These Boards form part of the local go
ment scheme, and it is an open question whether the receipts
expenditure connected with them should be included in the ge
account. The loans from which the works have been constru
however, form part of the public debt; and the interest payab
therefore, rightly included as an item of the general accounts.

The Metropolitan Board was established in 1888, and the H
District Board in 1892. The operations of the Boards are more
dealt with in the chapter dealing with local government.

The receipts from the Post, Telegraph, and Money Order se
have increased year by year, but so also has the expenditure.
total receipts for the year ended December, 1896, according t
Departmental returns, were £833,941; and the expenditure
£872,471, showing a loss on the year's transactions of £3
If to this be added £32,182, the interest payable on the co
buildings, and £35,579, the interest on the cost of constructi
telegraph lines, the total loss during 1896 will be found to a
to £106,291.

These services are, as far as possible, conducted on comm
principles; nevertheless the desire of the Government to exten
facilities of both the post and the telegraph to every part of the
has led to an expenditure which has in each year been in excess
receipts. It is quite possible that the principle of affording the
of postal and telegraphic communication to every district in New
Wales would be adhered to even if the system ultimate
become self-supporting.

balance of the revenue collected under the head of services of fees of office, public school fees, pilotage and harbour dues, er items. The revenue derived from these services, however, is nominal, as the cost of the work performed in nearly every ,r exceeds the receipts. The gross amount received under each ıring the year ended 30th June, 1897, was :—

	£
Fees of office	95,965
Public school fees	74,406
Pilotage and harbour dues	57,141
Other fees	17,011
Total	£244,523

General Miscellaneous Receipts.

tems which cannot rightly be placed under one of the three great are grouped under the heading of "General Miscellaneous s," the chief of which are "Rents, exclusive of land," "Fines and res," "Balances, transfers, and repayments," and similar accounts. oss amount received under each of the main sub-heads, and the ıd net revenue received under the general head, for 1880 and ıent years, were as shown below :—

Rents exclusive of Land.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Balances, Transfers, and Repayments.	Other Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Revenue from Miscellaneous Receipts.	Refunds.	Net Revenue from General Miscellaneous Receipts.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
37,337	12,371	55,048	141,662	246,418	10,056	236,362
53,785	14,416	19,588	83,262	171,051	14,014	157,037
55,476	17,072	60,586	96,711	229,845	18,015	211,830
45,781	19,798	64,686	125,567	255,832	24,212	231,620
53,185	21,344	48,477	145,744	268,750	21,980	246,770
51,258	22,007	68,660	147,877	289,802	14,111	275,691
50,502	20,155	60,180	117,026	247,863	16,204	231,659
51,095	18,355	61,427	162,483	293,360	14,631	278,729
64,073	18,025	53,016	146,389	281,503	5,435	276,068
66,825	15,378	110,839	137,400	330,442	6,276	324,166
55,652	15,808	68,090	194,241	333,791	11,796	321,995
70,643	19,537	44,481	118,690	253,351	15,034	238,317
98,279	18,708	36,502	97,881	251,370	6,499	244,871
88,337	17,774	54,669	93,179	253,959	8,755	245,204
81,364	13,633	87,382	121,146	303,525	6,857	296,668
42,383	7,415	35,743	80,582	166,123	3,320	162,803
89,864	18,029	100,512	106,892	315,297	9,600	305,697
92,749	15,743	45,638	121,660	275,790	22,167	253,623

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

The following table gives the net expenditure under the more im heads for each financial year since 1880. The amounts given he as well as those shown on page 862, are exclusive of transaction "Advances made," which, as mentioned previously, are not i expenditure in the proper sense of the term :—

Year.	Net Expenditure on—					
	Railways and Tramways.	Post and Telegraphs	Water Supply and Sewerage (Metro-	Public Instruction.	Interest on Public Debt (Funded and Unfunded).	Other Services.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1880	790,686	387,147	......	400,740	685,094	3,196,648
1881	730,181	406,473	......	587,578	685,639	3,215,878
1882	1,015,803	429,930	......	623,701	766,398	3,319,827
1883	1,425,800	489,013	......	737,969	834,145	4,063,441
1884	1,558,955	525,001	......	827,290	1,012,322	4,206,629
1885	1,689,917	557,096	......	762,599	1,262,684	4,082,824
1886	1,670,170	591,058	......	751,021	1,549,679	4,297,349
1887	1,658,724	613,354	......	728,835	1,643,522	4,345,482
1888	1,781,876	593,437	16,536	683,883	1,702,595	3,713,630
1889	1,768,474	604,370	38,168	707,211	1,760,274	4,122,947
1890	2,013,451	625,015	61,282	727,910	1,857,656	3,929,355
1891	2,325,712	669,390	64,656	770,813	1,874,616	4,360,419
1892	2,120,177	732,829	70,492	858,543	1,715,096	4,434,274
1893	1,868,293	751,443	79,566	805,330	2,440,326	3,986,700
1894	1,712,515	733,042	75,126	738,410	2,255,255	3,664,358
*1895	864,013	385,176	39,681	391,339	1,133,566	2,030,524
†1896	1,848,749	726,557	74,869	758,199	2,262,997	3,851,686
†1897	1,800,027	700,905	69,565	707,111	2,267,861	3,595,156

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* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

It will be noticed that the annual expenditure for the service has, generally speaking, increased : the revenue has likewise but not in a corresponding ratio. To establish the relative pc each, it will be necessary to place the accounts side by si figures given for the public debt apply only to interest expe the amount paid for redemptions, which in point of volume portant, and the expenditure incurred in the managem inscription of stock in London, including the payment of divid included under the head of "Other Services." The falling o expenses of the public debt in 1892 was due to the non-inclusio sum of £288,750 paid in London during September of that ye advice of this was received by the Treasury too late to adm amount being charged to the year mentioned, and the e 1893 was in consequence correspondingly increased.

EXPENSES OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

figures already given of the revenue of the colony, it will
ı noticed that the amount received on account of services
–that is, the earnings of the railways, the tramways, the
ply, and other departments—is included in the general revenue.
most a matter of necessity so long as the expenditure includes
n the public debt incurred to promote these services. As a
ıce of this system, the annual cost of maintaining the services
o is also included in the expenditure. The figures given on
do not admit of a ready distinction being made between these
of expenditure; but as the information is necessary for the right
ıding of the public accounts, the following statement has been
It shows the progress of expenditure as classified under
ings—ordinary expenditure of general government, including
n capital liability of services connected therewith; and expen-
ı services practically outside the administration of general
nt, such as railways, tramways, the Metropolitan and Hunter
vater supply and sewerage, and the interest on capital liability
the services enumerated. The figures for the period from 1887
ınd the rates per inhabitant, are as follow:—

Net Expenditure.

On General Government.		On Services practically outside General Government.	
Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.
£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
6,012,290	5 19 8	2,977,627	2 19 4
5,293,763	5 2 3	3,198,203	3 1 9
5,735,473	5 7 7	3,265,971	3 1 3
5,616,824	5 1 11	3,597,845	3 5 4
6,113,186	5 6 11	3,952,420	3 9 1
6,267,810	5 6 1	3,663,601	3 2 0
6,003,848	4 19 3	3,927,810	3 4 10
5,548,131	4 9 8	3,630,575	2 18 8
3,046,342	2 8 8	1,797,957	1 8 3
5,863,385	4 11 9	3,659,672	2 17 3
5,412,400	4 3 5	3,728,225	2 17 6

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

Under the heading of the expenses of general government are included civil, military, and legal expenditure, and the cost of the post and telegraph services, education, and such public works as are constructed out of the ordinary revenue, also the interest payable where the proceeds of loans have been used to defray the cost of their construction. The expenditure per head of population on account of some of these services, viz., postal and telegraphic, educational, and others of less importance, has either been stationary or declining.

The general tendency in progressive communities is for the cost of government per inhabitant to decline as population increases; the operation of this law is traceable in the figures just given. During the period embraced in the statement, the cost of government has varied between £4 9s. 8d. and £5 19s. 8d., the years with the least expenditure per inhabitant being 1894, 1896, and 1897, and that with the highest, 1887. The position of the State as the constructor of small local works prevents that decrease in the expenses of general government which is so desirable, and the absence of a law placing the responsibility upon the districts concerned has necessitated the expenditure of large sums upon works only locally important and not strictly chargeable to the public revenue.

SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS.

The Centennial Park and the General Post Office New Street Resumption Accounts have been made Special Suspense Accounts. The former was first operated upon during 1887, and continued part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account till 1894, when it was placed in suspense; and the latter was opened in 1890, and formed part of the same account till 1892, when it was similarly dealt with. The Centennial Park account was established under the Centenary Celebration Act of 1887, and the other account under an Act passed in 1889, which was amended in 1892. The first-mentioned Act provided for resumption of a large area of land close to Sydney, 640 acres of which were to be set apart for the Centennial Park, and the residue to be sold and the proceeds of the sale used in reducing the expenditure incurred for the Park. The latter Act provided for the resumption of certain areas for the widening and general improvement of the street facing the General Post Office. The balance of the land not required for public purposes was to be sold, and the proceeds of sales set against the expenditure incurred for resumptions and alterations.

It will be noticed in the subjoined table that no sales have been effected under the Centennial Park Account; the area available for disposal, however, was prepared for subdivision during 1895. Under the other Account a portion of the land has been sold, and the balance, which occupies a very choice position, is being held pending a ble time for disposal. The large overdraft to each account was arily met from the trust funds. The position of each account on h June, 1897, was as follows :—

Year.	Centennial Park Account.	General Post Office New Street Resumption Account.	
	Payments.	Receipts.	Payments.
	£	£	£
1887	20,285	....	....
1888	66,785	....	....
1889	56,913	....	....
1890	26,250	5,811	159,648
1891	27,561	24	177,730
1892	1,617	27,216	87,815
1893	....	102,523	29,947
1894	....	....	16,047
*1895	....	....	132,929
†1896	24,961	....	696
†1897	....	....	25
		135,574	604,837
Dr. Balance £	224,372	*Dr.* £469,263	

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

TRUST FUNDS.

Trust Account forms a very important division of the public s, not only from the nature of the transactions and the volume mulated funds, but also by reason of the manner in which the ts are operated upon in conjunction with the general finances of ony. To show the growing importance of the Trust Account, the ng table has been compiled. In 1871 the amount at credit was 40 ; in 1881, £1,671,183 ; in 1891, £4,997,055 ; at the close of £6,544,001 ; on the 30th June, 1896, the very large amount of ,741—an increase in a year and a half of £1,113,740; and

on the 30th June, 1897, the sum of £8,672,742, a further incre
£1,015,001 :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1871	213,340	1880	1,190,130	1889	3,175,484
1872	321,766	1881	1,671,183	1890	3,381,992
1873	472,437	1882	1,884,899	1891	4,997,055
1874	630,399	1883	2,200,896	1892	4,536,736
1875	757,909	1884	2,384,480	1893	5,859,503
1876	854,571	1885	2,515,110	1894	6,544,001
1877	1,006,425	1886	2,702,486	*1895	7,025,660
1878	990,284	1887	2,731,036	*1896	7,657,741
1879	986,729	[illegible]	[illegible]172,056	*1897	8,672,742

* [illegible] June.

The accounts of which the sum [illegible] £8,672,742 at credit at the mi
of 1897 is the aggregate, are of a miscellaneous character, the lar
being the Government Savin[illegible] Ba[illegible] Account of £4,436,737 ; the de
of the Savings Bank of N[illegible] Wales, £2,165,000 ; the Civil Se
Superannuation Account, [illegible] ; the Master in Equity's Accou
£362,888, and the Railway Stores Account of £240,982. A com
list of the various accounts will be found on page 879. The T
accounts are of two kinds—those opened with the Treasury by de
mental arrangement or pursuant to the provisions of an Act of
Legislature, and voluntary deposits by public bodies or companies.
great bulk of the accounts are of the first kind, comprising £6,503,
or nearly 75 per cent. of the gross total; the voluntary deposits am
to £2,169,000, the items making up the total being the deposit o
Savings Bank of New South Wales of £2,165,000 already menti
and the account of the William Roberts bequest, amounting to £4

The existence of a large account upon which the Treasury is fr
operate has been of no little assistance to the Consolidated Reven
times past; in fact, the Trust Funds form a strong reserve on whic
Government may fall back in time of need. The great bulk o
funds bears interest, whether invested or not; but the power to use
funds enables the Government to effect a saving of interest, as si
accommodation from the banks could not be obtained under
favourable conditions. At the same time, it cannot be denied th
existence of the funds has been a strong temptation to extrava
as without them it would not have been possible to have had the
excess of expenditure over revenue that has become so marked a f
of public financing since 1885.

As will be seen on page 880, a sum of £2,477,584 was adv
from the Trust Funds for the purpose of taking up Treasury
in aid of Revenue, while the advances to the Special Suspense Acc
were £693,635. Against these advances, however, must b
Credit Balance of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, viz., £

he trust funds may be divided into two classes—those coming under provisions of the Audit Act, and subject to the direct operations of Treasury; and those not subject to that Act, and operated upon by officers in whose names they stand. Unlike the accounts belonging he first-named class, the funds not subject to the Audit Act do not nically form part of the public account; nevertheless, for general venience they are used in the General Banking Account. The dis- tion between the two classes of accounts has been maintained in the wing table, which also shows how the various funds stood invested, the amount at credit on the 30th June, 1897 :—

Fund.	Amount at Credit.	Distribution.		
		Amount Invested in Government Securities.	Amount uninvested.	
			On which Interest is paid.	On which Interest is not paid.
Subject to Audit Act.				
	£	£	£	£
Service Superannuation Account (48 Vic. No. 24)	450,199	338,000	112,199	.....
c Instruction Endowment Account	195,016	193,872	......	1,144
Reward Fund	1,591	......	......	1,591
Superannuation Fund	2,042	......	......	2,042
Moneys Account	282	......	......	282
al Deposits Account—				
overnment Savings Bank Account	4,436,737	3,793,367	643,370	......
avings Bank of New South Wales Deposit Account	2,165,000	......	2,165,000	......
ssurance Fund, Real Property Act (26 Vic. No. 9)	156,430	140,900	......	15,530
ailway Construction Store Account	102,445	......	......	102,445
ailway Stores Account	240,982	......	......	240,982
erpetual Trustee Company (Limited)	20,000	20,000	......	......
ermanent Trustee Company of New South Wales (Limited)	20,000	20,000	......	......
unicipal Council of Sydney Sinking Fund (50 Vic. No. 13)	25,597	6,500	19,097	......
ther Special Deposits	250,377	11,000	14,787	224,590
Total, subject to Audit Act	8,066,698	4,523,639	2,954,453	588,606
Not subject to Audit Act.				
ay Loan Redemption Fund	75,000	......	......	75,000
South Wales 1,924 Stock Redemption Fund	13,204	......	......	13,204
South Wales 1,925 Stock Redemption Fund	14,817	......	......	14,817
ury Notes Withdrawal Account	110	......	......	110
ial Treasurer's—				
aster in Equity Account	362,888	276,770	86,118	......
urator of Intestate Estates Account	67,550	......	67,550	......
aster in Lunacy Account	59,588	41,784	17,804	......
egistrar in Bankruptcy Account	1,638	......	1,638	......
rothonotary Account	2,228	......	......	2,228
egistrar of Probates Account	9,021	......	9,021	......
Total, not subject to Audit Act	606,044	318,554	182,131	105,359
Grand total £	8,672,742	4,842,193	3,136,584	693,965

With the exception of a portion of the sum deposited in the Tre by the Savings Bank of New South Wales, a general rate of 4 per was allowed to 31st December, 1894, on all funds entitled to int On the 1st January, 1895, the rate was reduced to 3 per cent. accounts except those on which the old rates could not be altered ti terms of the existing arrangements had expired.

The table just given does not, however, fully illustrate the us which the trust funds have been put; the following figures are nece to the proper understanding of an important phase of the public acco On the 30th June, 1897, of trust funds there were invested in—

	£
Debentures, Stock, and Miscellaneous Securities......	2,383,375
Treasury Bills	2,477,584
Fixed Deposits in Banks..	450,000
Advances to revenue to enable General Post Office New Street Resumption and Centennial Park Accounts to be kept in suspense........................	693,635
Advanced to General Loan Account	1,500,000
Used for general purposes	1,168,148
Total..	£8,672,742

As shown in a foregoing table, no interest is paid on £693, belonging to trust accounts deposited with the Treasury; while on £4,860,959, in debenture stock and Treasury bills, the annual payn is £167,094, or at the rate of £3 8s. 9d. per cent.

The distribution of the fund on the 30th June, 1897, accordin the rates of interest, was as follows :—

Securities, etc.	Rate of Interest per cent. per annu			
	3	4	5	Tot
	£	£	£	£
Treasury Bills in aid of Revenue...	2,089,084	388,500	...	2,47
Funded Stock—				
New South Wales, 4 per cents.	....	403,249	...	403
New South Wales Funded Stock (56 Vic., No. 1)	....	1,147,260	...	1,147
New South Wales Funded Stock (58 Vic., No. 14)	30,000	....	...	30
New South Wales Funded Stock (59 Vic., No. 6)	380,000	....	...	[illegible]
New South Wales 1924 Stock	20,000	....	...	[illegible]
,, ,, 1925 ,, ...	150,000	....	...	[illegible]
Debentures	....	224,400	9,700	[illegible]
Uninvested bearing interest	3,005,289	131,295	...	[illegible]
Total	5,674,373	2,294,704	9,7	

is the practice of the Treasury to place at fixed deposit the a of the trust funds not invested and held in excess of immediate ements; the amount so deposited was £450,000, viz., £300,000 he Bank of New South Wales, and £150,000 with the City Bank lney. According to the rates allowed, the amount of interest on these deposits was £8,250; the rates, however are liable varied according to the state of the working account of the funds. The total amount of interest received by the Treasury ; the year ended June, 1897, on fixed deposits and other ments was £18,690, nearly the whole of which was earned by s belonging to the Trust Account.

trust funds under the Audit Act remaining unclaimed for a of two years, and balances of intestate and probate estates und after a lapse of six years, are transferred and surrendered to the lidated Revenue, and no person can legally claim moneys so dealt nevertheless, the Treasury invariably recognises and pays in all where an otherwise valid claim can be shown. The amount trans- to the Consolidated Revenue for each of the last ten and a half is given below; the figures are gross, as the sum refunded cannot en, but this is by no means considerable in any one year :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1887	18,247	1893	15,194
1888	22,101	1894	12,659
1889	52,735	*1895	18,017
1890	20,607	†1896	35,276
1891	16,713	†1897	21,588
1892	13,767		

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

LOAN APPROPRIATIONS.

items of expenditure to be provided for by loan are authorised an Appropriation Act, in the same manner as the ordinary diture chargeable to the general revenue; a separate Act, however, be passed before the money so appropriated can be lawfully ved. There is a further restriction to the expenditure of money, er from loans or revenue, in the operation of the Public Works f 1888. Under the provisions of this Act, the question of the bility of carrying out all works estimated to cost more than 00, except those connected with military and naval defence and intenance of railways, is referred by resolution of the Legislative bly to the Parliamentary Standing Committee appointed during st Session of each Parliament. The Committee investigates and reports to Parliament, and the Assembly by resolution declares whether it is expedient or not to carry out the proposed work; and if the declaration is in the affirmative, a Bill embodying such resolution has to be passed before the authorisation is absolute. The Loan Act of 1897 authorised the raising of a loan of £1,988,152 for services shown in the subjoined table:—

Services.	Amount— For which no provision is made for Sinking Fund.	Amount— For which provision is made for Sinking Fund.	Amount— Total.
	£	£	£
Railways—			
Existing Lines	300,000	....	300,000
Construction Branch	305,175	....	305,175
Tramways—			
Existing Lines	20,000	....	20,000
Construction	50,000	....	50,000
Harbours and Rivers	361,550	26,796	388,346
Sewerage Construction	22,580	....	22,580
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage	142,250	....	142,250
Government Architect	163,250	58,460	221,710
Roads and Bridges	137,600	59,751	197,351
Department of Mines—			
Water Supplies for Minor Townships	10,000	....	10,000
Accommodation House, Jenolan Caves	3,900	....	3,900
Agricultural Colleges	....	5,000	5,000
Department of Public Instruction—			
Public Schools and Sites	50,000	....	50,000
Miscellaneous Services—			
Telegraphs and Telephones	50,000	....	50,000
Military Works	....	39,540	39,540
Other Services	....	5,100	5,100
Total for Works	1,616,305	194,647	1,810,[illegible]
To meet 5 per cent. Debentures due 1898			177,[illegible]
Total Loans Authorised during 1897			1,988,152

It will be seen that provision is made for redeeming a portion the proposed loan by a sinking fund. This principle of redemp revenue has been applied to expenditure on works or services value will disappear by the time the loan out of the proceeds of they were constructed falls due.

Loan Appropriations for each year from 1875 to 1897 are given subjoined table, the amounts proposed to be expended on public being distinguished from those required for redemption of pre-loans :—

Year.	Amount authorised—		
	For Public Works and Services.	For Redemption of Loans.	Total.
	£	£	£
1875	....	....	....
1876	2,236,000	....	2,236,000
1877	1,120,000	....	1,120,000
1878	....	....	....
1879	7,352,768	....	7,352,768
1880	1,262,000	....	1,262,000
1881	8,807,500	....	8,807,500
1882	....	....	....
1883	2,000,000	....	2,000,000
1884	14,388,303	....	14,388,303
1885	....	....	....
1886	3,115,393	....	3,115,393
1887	....	....	....
1888	3,641,305	1,390,600	5,031,905
1889	4,366,696	723,200	5,089,896
1890	4,982,957	2,038,800	7,021,757
1891	4,000,000	....	4,000,000
1892	4,414,568	....	4,414,568
1893	839,806	40,000	879,806
1894	1,690,662	832,000	2,522,662
1895	1,555,200	977,400	2,532,600
1896	2,205,576	65,800	2,271,376
1897	1,810,952	177,200	1,988,152

an Appropriations are invariably in excess of the amount actually red for expenditure, and it has frequently happened that beyond ning Parliamentary sanction no further action has been taken in d to loans authorised to be raised, and the last statement of public nts shows that loans to the extent of some thirteen millions were rised, the bulk of which will in all probability never be issued.

LOAN ACCOUNT.

Loan account was not established until 1853, although the n of raising money by loans was introduced as early as 1842. first ten loans of the colony, which were issued under *Gazette* notices for immigration purposes, were raised on the security of th Land, or, as it was called, the Territorial Revenue; but only £329,70 was redeemed from that source, the balance being made a liability o the Consolidated Revenue, and as such eventually included in the Loa Account under the head of Redemptions. From 1853 to 1870 th proceeds of loans were paid into and formed part of the Consolidate Revenue Fund; but during the year last mentioned a differen principle was introduced, and a separate account was opened apart fro Revenue for each loan floated, while the amount then at credit of th old loans continued to be operated upon in conjunction with the Revenu Account until 1891, when the account was finally closed. The system of separate Loan Accounts continued for about nine years; but in 1879, under authority of the Loan Fund Amalgamation Act, the nin separate Loan Funds then existing were merged into one "General Loan Account," into which also the proceeds of all loans thereafter raised were to be paid. The present system is open to technical objection, as it admits of the expenditure of money on services for which no loan has been raised; but it has the great merit of saving interest, and rendering unnecessary the raising of loans when the Treasury has larg sums in hand, the proceeds of former loans.

The following figures show the amount of loans raised from the commencement of the Loan Account to the 30th June, 1897, and th proceeds available for expenditure:—

Treasury Bills, Debentures, Inscribed and Funded Stock sold from 1842 to 30th June, 1897	£76,240,078
Discount, bonus, and charges	2,836,761
Net amount realised	£73,403,317
Add net amount transferred from Consolidated Revenue to make good amount short-raised	128,007
Add amount advanced from Consolidated Revenue	1,500,000
	£75,031,324
Less proceeds of old loans not included in Loan Account	724,733
Sewerage Works taken over from Municipal Councils, Ashfield and North Sydney	5,900
	730,633
Sum available for expenditure	£74,300,691

The use to which the sum just stated was put is shown in the fol ing table. It will be observed that a sum of £12,595,130 for redem of loans is included in the total; this amount was not, of cours item of expenditure, but its inclusion is necessary to fully accou the total of £74,300,691, in which the original loans as well as the redemption loans were included :—

		£
Expended on—		
Railways		38,412,306
Tramways		1,861,493
Telegraphs and Telephones		935,396
Water Supply and Sewerage		7,786,584
Wharves		1,479,766
Docks		319,951
Harbours and Rivers		2,260,220
Public Buildings		2,609,774
Roads and Bridges		989,573
Fortifications and Military Works		1,242,006
Immigration		194,430
Public Instruction—School Buildings, etc.		403,820
Works in Queensland prior to separation		49,855
		£58,545,174
Redemptions—		
Loans redeemed from Proceeds of New Loans...	£11,395,130	
Treasury Bills in aid of Revenue paid off	1,200,000	
		12,595,130
Treasury Bills in aid of Revenue current		2,477,584
Credit Balance of Loan Account on 30th June, 1896		682,803
Total (as shown on previous page)		£74,300,691

It will be seen that out of the total amount of £58,545,174 shown in the above statement, £50,795,496, or 87 per cent., has been expended on directly productive works yielding or capable of yielding revenue towards meeting the charges for interest. Besides the sum just referred to, £6,263,387 has been spent on other works of a permanent nature, such as roads and bridges, improvements to harbours and rivers, lighthouses, schools, and public buildings, which, though not directly productive, have been undertaken for the development of the resources of the colony, and for facilitating settlement. The balance of £58,545,174, viz., £1,486,291, has been expended on unproductive services, the items being £1,242,006 for fortifications and military works, £49,855 for public works in Queensland prior to separation, and £194,430 for the promotion of immigration. The figures last given represent the expenditure on immigration under responsible government, prior to the assumption of which £724,733 was expended on this service, making a total expenditure of £919,163 for the encouragement of immigration.

The loan expenditure on account of the various services from 189
1896 was as follows :—

Head of Service.	1893.	1894.	*1895.	†1896.	†18
	£	£	£	£	
Railways	987,375	508,869	235,245	378,094	45
Tramways	155,955	93,766	16,108	8,031	2
Telegraphs and Telephones	15,985	5,203	7,442	36,709	6
Water Supply and Sewerage—					
Water Supply—					
Metropolitan	53,852	24,117	27,204	88,189	10
Hunter District	......	......	2,218	16,753	2
Country Towns and Mining Townships	65,038	55,425	46,938	41,311	2
Sewerage—					
Metropolitan	141,223	204,490	84,707	154,754	10
Buildings and Stores	12,661	5,059	157	920	1
Country Towns	......	......	206	2,381	16
Water Conservation and Irrigation	65,157	32,566	11,736	48,297	87
Harbours and Rivers Navigation—					
Wharfs, including resumption	18,692	140,953	24,977	42,067	2
Docks	2	......	......	......	1
Harbours	59,437	41,578	44,550	94,087	5
Rivers	45,974	47,610	62,616	40,482	31
Navigation	23,729	160	1,591	15,088	6
Alteration of Dredges	......	......	......	......	13
Reclamation Works	......	......	......	......	43
Roads and Bridges	63,305	28,097	5,820	40,992	15
Fortifications and Military Works, and Naval Station, Sydney Harbour	51,797	48,979	11,624	21,975	11
Public Works, Buildings, &c.—					
Charitable Institutions	45,821	42,708	11,229	30,446	2
Administration of Justice	34,558	4,077	9,078	63,331	4
Educational	3,399	4,218	7,408	21,788	2
Public Instruction, School Buildings, &c.	33,093	2,000	109	1,006	14
Other Public Buildings and Works	38,080	40,963	32,173	79,726	32
Purchase of Sites and Erection of Buildings for Local Land Boards and Survey Offices	......	......	......	......	4
Forest Reserves, for thinning out and improving	......	......	13,489	39,518	11
Compensation for cancellation under Mining Act of 1889	......	......	......	4,353	
To promote settlement under Crown Lands Act of 1895	......	......	......	......	3
	1,915,133	1,330,046	656,625	1,270,898	1,54
Less Repayment to Credit of Votes, &c. £	1,553	......	......	......	...
	1,913,580	1,330,046	656,625	1,270,898	1,54
Municipal Works taken over by the State: (the expenditure on these Works is not rightly chargeable to the years in which the transfers were made)	16,000	......	2,500	8,200	...
Total Expenditure on Public Works, &c. £	1,929,580	1,330,046	659,125	1,279,098	1,54
Loans repaid by New Loans (including Treasury Bills)	40,300	1,250,400	821,900	1,224,200	2,8
Total £	1,969,880	2,580,446	1,481,025	2,503,298	2,74

* Half-year ended 30th June. † Year ended 30th June.

As will be seen by the foregoing statement, the proceeds of loans were devoted to services of a miscellaneous character, but the bulk of the expenditure was for the construction of works likely to be revenue-bringing, or for services deemed necessary for the proper development of the colony. Thus it will be seen that during the four and a half years ended 30th June, 1897, £2,562,822 has been expended upon railways, £296,495 on tramways, £134,002 on telegraphs and telephones, £574,777 on water supply for the Metropolitan and Hunter River Districts and Country Towns and Mining Townships, £795,765 on sewerage for the Metropolitan District and Country Towns, and £254,935 for Water Conservation and Irrigation. For the purpose of thinning out the forest reserves of the colony, with the object of improving the character of the timber remaining, an amount of £64,009 has been spent, and £36,678 has been disbursed on the general improvement of Crown Lands to promote settlement under the Crown Lands Acts in force. It must, however, be confessed that there has been some expenditure on works and services for which there will be in a few years no substantial assets remaining. Items of this kind it is intended in future to pay for altogether out of revenue, or if out of loans, to provide for their ultimate payment out of revenue by means of a sinking fund.

In the early stages of Australasian borrowing the expenditure was moderate, loans were hard to raise, and interest high; but latterly, as the conditions under which loans could be contracted became favourable, especially since 1875, few of the colonies set any bounds to their requirements. It was a repetition of the old experience, the opportunity engendered the desire, and the open purses of the investors tempted the colonies to undue borrowing and lavish expenditure. What is termed a "vigorous public works policy" was the order of the day, and works were pressed forward which under other circumstances would not have been undertaken, or have been held back until the growth of population warranted their construction. The plethora of money has been harmful in many ways, but is most apparent in the construction of not a few branch railways in outlying and sparsely-settled districts which do not pay even their working expenses, with the consequence that the interest on loan capital has to be met out of general revenue, and in some instances the present generation will pass away before this condition of affairs will be remedied. But when every allowance has been made for unwise or improvident expenditure, it will be found that by far the larger portion of the proceeds of loans has been well expended. In some instances, as the subsequent pages show, it will be years, taking a most hopeful view of the situation, before the revenue-producing works as a whole will yield a sum sufficient to pay working expenses and interest; nevertheless, a practical consideration of the conditions which surround Australasian settlement will demonstrate that in some instances the construction of these works was justifiable, for apart from the certainty that they will ultimately be self-supporting, they have already materially assisted in developing the country's resources, and have largely enhanced the value of the public estate.

The loan expenditure, exclusive of payments on account of redem
tions, during each year and up to the end of each period since 18
was as follows:—

Year.	During each year.		At the close of each year.	
	Amount.	Per inhabitant.	Amount.	Per inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1880	1,668,638	2 5 8	16,395,351	21 18 5
1881	2,397,368	3 2 8	18,792,719	24 0 7
1882	2,832,759	3 10 11	21,625,478	26 10 8
1883	3,265,711	3 15 10	24,891,189	28 18 0
1884	3,674,706	4 3 2	28,565,895	31 11 4
1885	[illegible]	[illegible] 0	32,462,040	34 3 9
1886	[illegible]	[illegible] 8	36,228,396	36 12 5
1887	[illegible]	[illegible] 1	38,193,415	37 8 8
1888	[illegible]	[illegible] 1	40,269,722	38 6 3
1889	[illegible]	[illegible] 6	41,734,622	38 11 7
1890	[illegible]	[illegible] 9	44,034,373	39 5 0
1891	[illegible]	[illegible] 1	48,784,540	41 17 3
1892	[illegible]	[illegible] 0	51,799,220	43 5 0
1893	[illegible]	[illegible] 1	53,728,800	43 18 4
1894	[illegible]	[illegible] 6	55,058,846	43 19 11
*1895	[illegible]	[illegible] 7	55,717,971	43 18 9
†1896	[illegible]	[illegible] 1	56,997,069	44 3 10
†1897	[illegible]	[illegible] 0	58,545,174	44 12 10

* Six months ended 30th June. Twelve months ended 30th June.

Previous to 1875 the loan expenditure on works was moderate, an
calls for no special comment. In the year named, however, the amou
spent was more than double that of 1874, and that year may be co
sidered the starting-point of the vigorous public works policy alread
alluded to. The figures in the table speak for themselves. In rega
to the year 1891, and in some degree to 1892, it may be as well to no
that there was a large expenditure on account of quadrupling a portio
of the main line in the metropolitan area—a work of urgent necessit
without which the Railway Commissioners professed themselves unab
to work with safety and efficiency the large interests entrusted to the
Besides this expenditure, a sum of £1,000,000 was expended on reco
struction of rolling stock and permanent way, which, being for renewal
was properly a charge against working expenses, but the sum wa
advanced to the Commissioners from the General Loan Account i
accordance with a special Act of the Legislature, to be repaid by the
presumably out of the earnings of the railways under their contro
the annual payment in redemption of the advance being fixed
£75,000. It has been pointed out in various parts of this ch
that the railways did not, until the financial year 1896–7, earn suff
to meet the whole of the annual interest chargeable on
liability, so that the payment of the instalment in the manne

an impossibility; and although the sum of £75,000 appears in the public accounts as being repaid from railway earnings, it is in reality a charge on the general revenue of the colony.

The growth of the loan expenditure, so marked in the past decade, is hardly likely to be continued, as apart from the salutary check imposed by the investigations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, railway construction, for which most of the loans have been raised, will in the future be confined to perfecting the various systems in operation, and to the gradual extension of the coast lines north and south.

PUBLIC DEBT.

When in 1831 it was decided to abolish the system of free land grants, and to dispose of the public estate by auction in lieu of private tender, it was also decided that the proceeds of land sales should be paid into what was called the Land Fund, from which were to be paid the charges incident to the introduction of immigrants; and it was from the inability of the Land Fund to meet these charges that the public debt of New South Wales first had its rise. From 1831 to 1841 the Land Fund was sufficient, but in the year last named the engagements for immigration purposes were so heavy that it became necessary to supplement the Fund in some way, and for this purpose it was decided by the Governor to borrow on the security of the Territorial or Land Revenue. Accordingly, on the 28th December, 1841, a debenture loan of £49,000 was offered locally under *Gazette* notice. This loan was issued during 1842 in two instalments, the nominal rates of interest being 5¼d. and 4d. per cent. respectively per diem. The loan at the higher rate was raised at par, and the other at a discount of 2 per cent. This was the first loan floated in the colony, as well as the first raised by any of the Australasian Governments. Including those just mentioned, there were issued between the years 1842 and 1855 ten loans, amounting in the aggregate to £705,200, the proceeds of which were devoted to the furtherance of immigration. Debentures representing these immigration loans were redeemed to the value of £329,700 from the Territorial Revenue, while the balance of £375,500 was taken over as a liability on the general revenue of the colony, and ultimately became incorporated in the public debt. In addition to the Immigration Loans, there were others, six in number, authorised by Acts of Council. These were not all issued until after responsible government was proclaimed. Under the authority of the above mentioned Acts, the first instalment of a loan for £683,300 was placed on the London market during the years 1854 and 1855. This was the first Australasian loan issued in England, and the forerunner of numerous others, representing a liability of over £227,000,000 outstanding in 1897.

GROWTH OF DEBT.

The Public Debt in November, 1855, when responsible government was proclaimed, was £1,000,800, distributed under the following heads:—

Raised on the Security of Territorial Revenue—	
Immigration	£423,000
Sydney Railway Company's Loan	217,500
Raised on the Security of General Revenue—	
Amount for Sydney Sewerage	54,900
,, ,, Sydney Water Supply	28,000
,, ,, Railways	256,400
,, ,, Public Works	21,000
Total	£1,000,800

Of the total shown above, £47,500 was redeemed out of the Territorial Revenue; the remainder, although afterwards nominally redeemed by new loans, in reality forms part of the existing public debt.

The debt outstanding at each quinquennial period is given in the subjoined table. It will be seen that the appetite for borrowing has increased with the growth of population. From 1850 to 1860 the average annual increase of indebtedness was £370,000; from 1860 to 1870, £585,000; from 1870 to 1880, £522,000; from 1880 to 1890, £3,348,000; and from 1890 to 1897, £1,950,000:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1842	49,500	1860	3,830,230	1880	14,903,919
1845	97,900	1865	5,749,630	1885	35,564,259
1850	132,500	1870	9,681,130	1890	48,383,333
1855	1,000,800	1875	11,470,637	*1897	61,074,498

* 30th June.

The increase has been most marked since 1880, the period covered by the following table, which contains the more important particulars necessary for a right understanding of the public loan accounts he amount of bonds or stock sold has been placed against the ar in which the sales were effected, and not, as is the practice the Treasury, against the year in which they were brought to count :—

31st December.	Treasury Bills, Debentures, and Stock at close of each year—								
	Authorised.	Sold.	Redeemed.			Unredeemed (Outstanding Public Debt).			
			From Consolidated Revenue.	By New Loans.	Total.	Total.	Per Inhabitant		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
880	27,333,964	17,986,519	1,371,870	1,710,730	3,082,600	14,903,919	19	18	6
881	36,141,464	20,040,719	1,405,970	1,710,730	3,116,700	16,924,019	21	12	10
882	36,141,464	22,040,719	1,608,770	1,710,730	3,319,500	18,721,219	22	19	5
883	38,141,464	28,045,719	1,702,530	1,710,730	3,413,260	24,632,459	28	12	0
884	51,824,267	33,550,719	1,738,030	1,710,730	3,448,760	30,101,959	33	5	3
885	51,824,267	39,050,719	1,775,730	1,710,730	3,486,460	35,564,259	37	9	1
886	54,939,660	44,550,719	1,805,740	1,710,730	3,516,470	41,034,249	41	9	6
887	54,939,660	44,560,719	1,854,640	1,710,730	3,565,370	40,995,349	40	3	7
888	60,056,565	48,188,619	1,897,740	2,197,830	4,095,570	44,093,049	41	19	0
889	65,146,461	53,595,719	1,943,240	3,098,930	5,042,170	48,553,549	44	17	8
890	74,929,218	54,331,503	2,131,240	3,816,930	5,948,170	48,383,333	43	2	6
891	74,929,218	59,325,703	2,311,640	4,063,330	6,374,970	52,950,733	45	8	10
892	83,119,494	62,837,203	2,501,340	5,862,430	8,363,770	54,473,433	45	9	8
893	84,015,300	67,919,103	2,687,340	5,902,730	8,590,070	59,329,033	48	9	11
894	86,537,962	69,058,533	2,879,250	7,153,130	10,032,380	59,026,153	47	3	4
895	86,540,462	69,086,213	2,890,250	7,975,030	10,865,280	58,220,933	45	18	2
896	87,257,462	74,673,353	3,062,750	9,199,230	12,261,980	62,411,373	48	7	9
897	89,533,238	76,240,078	3,764,550	11,401,030	15,165,580	61,074,498	46	11	5

* 30th June.

In dealing with the figures under the head of loans redeemed, it must borne in mind that the loans paid off from revenue can alone be said be redeemed. Where an old loan is redeemed out of the proceeds of bsequent loans, there is merely a change in the form of the liability, ith, as a rule, some reduction of the interest charge.

The following table shows the annual payments under each head for terest and expenses of the public debt since 1887. For the year 1893 the figures shown for interest do not represent the actual liability of that year, as the sum of £288,750, properly chargeable to 1892, was not brought to account until the following year, otherwise the figures are correct:—

Year.	Interest.	Redemptions (including premium on purchase of Debentures on account of Railway Loan, 31 Vic. No. 11).	Expenses connected with management of Inscribed Stock, Bank of England.	Commission paid to Financial Agents in England and New South Wales.	Annual Interest and Charges paid.	
					Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1887	1,643,522	50,773	11,903	3,563	1,709,761	1 14 0
1888	1,702,595	44,588	13,160	2,862	1,763,205	1 14 1
1889	1,760,274	49,519	14,426	4,292	1,828,511	1 14 4
1890	1,857,656	39,203	15,855	3,068	1,915,782	1 14 9
1891	1,874,616	105,400	16,680	2,389	1,999,085	1 15 0
1892	1,715,096	115,196	18,259	3,410	1,851,961	1 11 4
1893	2,440,326	111,897	19,057	1,384	2,572,664	2 2 6
1894	2,255,255	107,502	19,952	1,869	2,384,578	1 18 7
*1895	1,133,566	21,561	10,249	827	1,166,203	0 18 6
†1896	2,262,997	111,752	16,923	1,718	2,393,390	1 17 5
†1897	2,267,861	116,113	18,626	2,353	2,404,953	1 16 8

* Six months ended 30th June. † Twelve months ended 30th June.

At present the net revenue from the public works of the country is entirely comprised in that derived from railways, tramways, and water supply and sewerage. Electric telegraphs, docks, and wharfs, although in the same category, do not at present yield a surplus. The water and sewerage works of the Metropolitan area are not yet completed, but these services are self-supporting; that is, the revenue is sufficient to meet the amount required to be expended on maintenance, management, depreciation, and interest on capital liability. When, however, these undertakings are completed, and the railways are in full operation, the sum available to meet interest and other charges on the public debt should leave little to be made good from the general revenue of the colony.

The public debt is partly funded and partly unfunded, the funded debt comprising debentures, inscribed and funded stocks; and the unfunded, Treasury bills. The two classes are defined by the difference of currency, the funded debt being long-dated loans, and the unfunded short-dated loans. Originally the term "funded" was applied only to interminable stocks, the amount of which, £532,889, is, as compared with the total debt, unimportant; but it is now the practice to apply this term also to redeemable debts. The amounts outstanding the 30th June, 1897, under each class, and the total debt, were as follow :—

Description of Stock.	Amount outstanding, 30th June, 1897.		Annual Interest thereon.
	£	£	£
Funded Debt—			
Debentures—			
Overdue, or unpresented, which have ceased to bear interest	3,650	....	....
Still bearing interest	10,691,500	....	452,528
N. S. Wales 4 per cents. (Interminable)...	530,189	....	21,208
N. S. Wales Funded Stock, 56 Vic. No. 1	2,549,350	....	101,974
N. S. Wales Funded Stock, 58 Vic. No. 14	863,947	....	25,918
N. S. Wales Funded Stock, 59 Vic. No. 6	520,458	....	15,614
N. S. Wales 1924 Stock	198,065	....	5,942
" 1925 "	222,255	....	6,668
Inscribed Stock	43,432,820	....	1,546,479
Total, Funded Debt	....	58,591,914	....
Unfunded Debt—			
Treasury Bills (for Loan Services)—			
Overdue or unpresented, which have ceased to bear interest	5,000	....	....
Treasury Bills (Deficiency in Revenue)	2,477,854	....	78,212
Total, Unfunded Debt	....	2,482,584	....
Total Public Debt	....	61,074,498	2,241,933

The following table shows the total amount of stock under each rate of interest. The stock bearing 6 per cent. represents the loans raised by the Municipalities of Sydney and Balmain for water and sewerage works, now taken over by the State. With the exception of municipal loans to the amount of £58,000 due in 1904, £2,700 in permanent stock, and £206,300 redeemable by annual drawings under Act 31 Vic. No. 11, all the loans bearing 5 per cent. interest will mature in or before 1902. There were, however, also overdue 5 per cent. debentures to the amount of £3,650 outstanding on the 30th June, 1897, which have ceased to bear interest :—

Interest—Per cent.	Amount of Stock.	Annual Interest thereon.
	£	£
6	94,500	5,670
5½	4,500	247
5	*2,292,850	114,460
4½	3,700	167
4	†21,458,939	858,158
3½	29,326,200	1,026,417
3	7,893,809	236,814
Total	61,074,498	2,241,933

* Includes £3,650 overdue debentures. † Includes £5,000 overdue Treasury Bills.

The 3 per cents. comprise the £4,000,000 floated in London during October, 1895 ; Funded Stock raised locally under Acts 58 Vic. No. 14 and 59 Vic. No. 6 ; and Treasury bills representing Trust Funds in the hands of the Government, and so invested. The whole of these Treasury bills bore interest at the rate of 4 per cent. to December 31, 1894, but the rate of interest on a large proportion was reduced to 3 per cent. from the 1st January, 1895.

DATES OF MATURITY.

The dates of repayment extend from 1898 to 1935; the sums payable in the different years vary considerably in amount, the larg sum in any one year being £16,698,065 in 1924. The redemption such a large amount in one year is happily far distant, and befor arrives a more satisfactory procedure in dealing with loans falling will be devised than now obtains. The question of the consolidation loans has received some attention, and any scheme of consolidat adopted will probably provide for the principle of redemption ove specified time, at the option of the Government, and not on a given as is the present practice.

The following table shows the due dates and the amount repayal in each year:—

Class of Security.	Interest Rate.	Amount raised in— London.	Amount raised in— Sydney.	Total Outstanding.	Year when Due.
		£	£	£	
Debentures	5	3,300	350	3,650	Overdue.
"	5	....	177,200	179,700	1898.
"	6	....	2,500		
"	5	127,900	69,800	197,700	1899.
"	5	857,100	....	861,600	1900.
"	5½	....	4,500		
"	5	374,900	....	420,900	1901.
"	6	....	30,000		
"	5	16,000	....		
"	5	399,300	....	459,000	1902.
"	6	....	59,700		
"	4	1,000,000	....	1,003,700	1903.
"	4½	3,700			
"	5	58,000	....	58,000	1904.
"	6	....	2,300	903,800	1905.
"	4	901,500	....		
"	4	....	224,900	224,900	1906.
"	4	1,450,000	....	1,450,000	1908.
"	4	1,799,500	....	1,799,500	1909.
"	4	2,863,700	....	2,863,700	1910.
"	4	60,000	....	60,000	1912.
N.S.W. Funded Stock	4	....	2,549,350	2,549,350	
"	3	....	1,384,405	1,384,405	
Inscribed Stock	3½	12,826,200	....	12,826,200	1918.
" "	3½	16,500,000	....	16,500,000	1924.
N.S.W. 1924 Stock	3	....	198,065	198,065	
" 1925 "	3	....	222,255	222,255	1925.
Inscribed Stock	4	9,686,300	....	9,686,300	1933.
"	3	4,000,000	....	4,000,000	1935.
Debentures	5	206,300	....	206,300	Annual drawi
N.S.W. 4 per cents.	4	....	530,189	530,189	Interminable.
Permanent Debentures	5	....	2,700	2,700	Permanent.
Funded Debt	..	53,133,700	5,458,214	58,591,914	
Treasury Bills (Defic. of Rev.)	3	....	2,089,084	2,089,084	£150,000 re-
	4	....	388,500	388,500	deemed annu
" " (For Loan Services)	4	5,000	....	5,000	Overdue.
Unfunded Debt	..	5,000	2,477,584	2,482,584	
Total Public Debt	..	53,138,700	7,935,798	61,074,498	

As will be seen in the above table, New South Wales is indeb to the London market for almost the whole of the money raised un

. This dependence on the English market was originally due to lack of local capital; but of late years, when such capital has been ly abundant, the Government has still turned to London, where the of interest at which it could borrow was much below what would been demanded by the local capitalists. The local and English s are now much nearer than at any period in the history of Australia, it is probable that the Government could place small loans almost dvantageously in Sydney as in London.

FINANCIAL AGENTS.

ince the inception of responsible government, the colony has had ial local and London agencies to conduct its banking business. The k of New South Wales was first appointed, and under its auspices first external loan of 1854 was issued. The Oriental Bank Cor- tion negotiated all subsequent loan issues until 1869, when the k of New South Wales again took up the management of loan ations in London. In 1884 the business was transferred to the ociated Banks, which were represented in England by the London Westminster Bank. On the 31st December, 1889, the agreement the Associated Banks came to an end, and on the first day of the eeding year the London and Westminster Bank became the colony's orised agent to transact such financial business connected with the don account as was not undertaken by the Bank of England, while Associated Banks divided amongst them the local business. This ngement continued until the crisis in 1893, when the Bank of New th Wales again became sole local agent for the Government. ing 1895-6 a current account was opened at the City Bank of ney, and during 1896-7 a similar account was opened at the mercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited.

he Bank of England has been the colony's agent for the issue and agement of stock since 1884, although this institution inscribed the of the loan of 1882 and the two issues of 1883, negotiated in don by the Bank of New South Wales. Its charges for negotiation management are, however, higher than those of the London and tminster Bank, which acts in a similar capacity for Victoria, stern Australia, and Tasmania. The prestige of the former insti- on no doubt influenced the Government in its choice of an agent. side inscribed stock transactions the Government prefers accepting from other banks in issuing loans, and accordingly the London Westminster Bank during 1892 and 1893 issued and negotiated 250,000 Treasury bills.

CHARGES ON FLOATING LOANS.

he charges incidental to the floating of an inscribed stock loan in land are heavy. The chief expense is the stamp duty of 12s. 6d.

per cent. t[illegible] the British Government on inscribed stock. The
charges—b[illegible]k commission, ½ per cent.; brokerage, ¼ per cent.;
minor expe[illegible]es which amount to about 4d. per cent.—are for
rendered.

The expenses incurred for the inscription and management of by the [illegible] of England, through which New South Wales mak issues, [illegible]ing the payment of the half-yearly dividends, are per mill[illegible]r the first ten millions, £450 for the next five, and per million for all subsequent amounts. Prior to March, 1895 charges were £100 per million more in each case.

The subjoined statement gives the charges of negotiation of the last loans issued by the colony in debenture form and of the insc stock loans floated durin[illegible] 1883-95:—

Year when Floated.	Amount of Principal.	Gross Proceeds.	Charges.				Expenses per £	
			Stamp Duty.	[illegible]k Commis[illegible]	Brokers' Commission, Postage, and Petty Expenses.	Total.	Principal.	Gr
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Issued (in London) as Debentures.—Bank of New South Wales.								
1881	2,050,000	2,120,697	2,562	3,813	5,298	11,673	0 11 5	0 1
1882	2,000,000	2,042,968	2,500	3,750	5,189	11,439	0 11 5	0 1
Issued (in London) as Inscribed Stock.—Bank of England.								
1883	3,000,000	3,001,067	18,750	5,000	7,500	31,250	1 2 0	1
1883	3,000,000	3,018,791	18,750	5,000	7,809	31,559	1 2 3	1
1884	5,500,000	5,152,386	34,375	27,500	14,289	76,164	1 7 8	1
1885	5,500,000	5,042,041	34,375	27,500	14,436	76,311	1 7 9	1 1
1886	5,500,000	5,247,692	34,375	27,500	14,481	76,356	1 7 9	1
1888	3,500,000	3,626,341	21,875	17,500	9,380	48,755	1 7 10	1
1889	3,500,000	3,584,105	21,875	17,500	9,379	48,754	1 7 10	1
1891	4,500,000	4,276,030	28,125	22,500	11,784	62,409	1 7 9	1
1891	294,200	294,200	1,839	176	696	2,711	0 18 5	0 1
1893	200,000	191,350	1,250	Nil.	500	1,750	0 17 6	0 1
1893	2,500,000	2,514,861	15,625	12,500	6,853	34,978	1 8 0	[illegible]
1894	832,000	846,433	5,200	4,160	2,875	12,235	1 9 [illegible]	[illegible]
1895	4,000,000	3,876,605	25,000	20,000	10,721	55,721	1	

REDEMPTIONS AND SINKING FUNDS.

are either redeemed or renewed. In the former case, the f the obligations of the State to its public creditors is reduced; ter case the liability remains the same. Repayments, however, y effected under the head of renewals. The following statees the particulars to 30th June, 1897, of each loan for which on is provided by sinking fund or annual drawings. It will that a very small part of the outstanding loans is subject to on in this manner:—

Loan.	Amount of Issue.	Annual Drawings.	Annual Sinking Fund.	Amount outstanding on 30 June, 1897.
	£	£	£	£
oan (31 Vic. No.	1,000,000	20,000	....	206,300
oan (53 Vic. No.	1,000,000	....	75,000	550,000
Bills in aid of				
:—				
Issue (1889–1890)	2,502,884	}	150,000	{ 1,452,884
l Issue (1896) ...	1,174,700			1,024,700
'24 Stock	198,065	....	6,602	184,861
325 ,, ...	222,255	....	7,409	207,438
327 ,, ...	208,123	6,937	†............	....
Water Supply...	16,000	....	*3,788	12,212

ulated Sinking Fund. † Loan not yet issued ; consequently no liability exists.

leem the Railway Loan (31 Vic. No. 11), it is provided that ch year £70,000 shall be set apart for interest and reduction After the interest liabilities have been provided for, £20,000 lance is expended in extinction of the principal by annual at par, and the sum remaining over is devoted to purchasing es in the open market. The principle of extinguishing the bt by the operation of sinking funds has never found much ith the Treasurers of the colony. There is, however, a diso apply the system to all cases where the work carried out by money is not of a permanent character, or is for the relief of the revenue. In the Loan Fund Act of 1894 provision was theree for an annual sinking fund to redeem a proportion of the loan to be raised, and a similar provision was made in the Loan Acts 1896, and 1897. In connection with the loan of £16,000 er by the Government in 1893 from the Municipal Council of e, a sum of £3,788 had accumulated for the purpose of g the debentures, but no further contributions have been made to the Fund. It may be mentioned that the system of establi sinking funds is not favourably entertained in the other colonies, ing from the way in which it has been practically abandoned.

Quotations for Stock.

The standard of the colony's credit can be gauged either from prices obtained by original investors in loans, or from the prices q on the market for New South Wales representative stock. The ordi stock transactions on the London Exchange are perhaps a better g as unless the market quot disturbed by the issue of a loa New South Wales itself, or ny other colony of the Austral group, the standard of credit be established daily, and consequ up to date.

The following table shows the monthly quotations during 1896- the London market for the £16,500,000 3½ per cent. inscribed maturing October, 1924:—

Date.		Average of Buying and Selling Price.		Annual Rate per £100 sterling yielded to investors if stock is held till date of maturity.		
Month.	Day.	"Cum—Dividend."	"Ex—Dividend."	£	s.	d.
1896.						
July	4th	110½	109·60	3	1	9
August	1st	110½	109·33	3	2	0
September	5th	110½	108·99	3	2	3
October	3rd	108½	108·48	3	2	9
November	7th	107	106·64	3	4	4
December	5th	108	107·38	3	3	8
1897.						
January	2nd	108½	107·61	3	3	5
February	6th	111	109·77	3	1	6
March	6th	109	107·50	3	3	6
April	3rd	108½	108·48	3	2	7
May	1st	109	108·71	3	2	5
June	5th	109	108·38	3	2	8

It will be noticed that a steady decline in the colony's stocks place during nearly the whole of the twelve months. On the 4th 1896, stocks were quoted at a premium of £9 12s. against a premi £8 8s. in June, 1897.

Transactions in Government securities on the Sydney Stoc are almost entirely confined to the new funded stock, i Act 56 Vic. No. 1. Quotations for debentures and old rare. The prices of the new funded stock for each month of 1896–7 l be found in the following table :—

Date.		Buying Price.		Annual rate per £100 sterling yielded to investors if stock is held till date of maturity.
Month.	Day.	"Cum Dividend."	"Ex Dividend."	
1896.				£ s. d.
July	16th	112	110·28	3 6 5
August	23rd	111½	111·36	3 5 0
September	17th	112½	112·08	3 4 0
October	15th	112½	111·78	3 4 4
November	18th	110½	109·40	3 7 5
December	14th	111½	110·12	3 6 5
1897.				
January	15th	110	108·28	3 8 10
February	25th	112½	112·50	3 3 1
March	15th	112½	112·14	3 3 6
April	22nd	112½	111·72	3 4 0
May	18th	113	111·94	3 3 8
June	16th	112½	111·12	3 4 8

The following table shows the amounts of stock registered in the onies and in London. The amount available on the Sydney market only £3,156,215, and of this sum £402,460 represents debentures, 1 £126,941 old funded stock, which, as already mentioned, are not ›ted regularly :—

Class of Stock.	Amount Registered in—				Annual Interest payable in		
	New South Wales		Victoria.	London.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	London.
	Purchased from Trust Funds held by Treasury.	Taken up in Open Market.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
enture Bonds	234,100	402,460	61,800	9,996,790	30,518	3,090	418,920
W. 4 per Cents. (Old Funded Stock)	403,249	126,941	....	......	21,208	....	....
W. Funded Stock (New)	1,557,260	2,376,494	....	......	143,506	....	....
ribed Stock	170,000	250,320	....	43,012,500	12,610	....	1,533,869
sury Bills—							
53 Vic. No. 9	1,452,884	......	....	......	47,471	....	....
55 Vic. No. 7	.. ...	......	....	*5,000	......	....	....
59 Vic. No. 22	1,024,700	......	....	......	30,741	....	....
lic Debt on 30th June, 1897	4,842,193	3,156,215	61,800	53,014,290	286,054	3,090	1,952,789

* Overdue.

The owners of debentures are not known, as the bonds are transferable delivery ; the locality of holders, however, can be established by the istration of the numbers of the interest coupons at the respective ncies.

CHARACTER OF STOCK ISSUED.

As v seen on page 894, loans have been raised by Treas
deb and stock. The Treasury bills are of a temporary c
and he course of a few years disappear from the stateme
pub either by substitution of ordinary stock in lieu of th
the te orary purpose for which they were issued has been serv
redem, on maturity. The practice of issuing Treasury bil
in anti on of, or to make good, deficiencies in revenue, i
establi one; but, as will be seen later on, they have be
to serve ther purpose, and money has been raised by thei
meet certain obligations for public works. This is an innovati
could not be well avo sturbed markets of the last f
The Treasury bills are like tish Treasury bills in name
they have some points in common with the British Exchequer bi
amount current on the 30th June, 1897, was £2,482,584,
sum £2,477,584 represents bi in aid of revenue, and £5,0
issued for loan services. From 42 to 1883 the practice follo
to raise loans by debenture bonds. In the year last named,
the Inscribed Stock Act was passed, in conformity with the p
of the Imperial "Colonial Stock Act of 1877," and the system
loans by debentures was abolished. The amount of debentu
standing on the 30th June, 1897, was £10,695,150, which is con
less than one-fourth of the inscribed stock current.

The issue of funded stock, which may be more appropriatel
registered stock, is regulated by four Acts—one passed in 187
1892, one in 1894 and the other in 1895. Stock issued u
former Act is interminable, while that issued under the mor
Acts may be redeemed at the option of the Government, at th
tion of twenty years from the date on which the Act was pa
the Treasurer giving twelve months' notice of his intention to

Under the Act of 1873 the Government was authorised to r
local loan a sum of £509,780, the stock to be known as th
South Wales 4 per cents." The amount of stock sold in order
this sum was £530,189, which, together with £2,700 raise
another Act, represents the total amount of the interminable
the colony.

The Funded Stock Act of 1892 authorised the issue of sto
amount of £3,000,000. The rate of interest was fixed at 4 p
at a minimum price of par, while the purchasers were affo
privilege of purchasing amounts as low as £10, or any mu
that figure. The amount sold to 30th June, 1897, was £2,
leaving stock to the amount of £450,650 yet to be raised.

The Loan Acts 58 Vic. No. 14 and 59 Vic. No. 6, passed
and 1895 respectively, provided for the establishment of
stocks. The stocks under the first-mentioned Act are k
South Wales 1924 Stock, and Funded Stock, the latte

with the Stock floated under 56 Vic. No. 1, the amounts outig on 30th June, 1897, being £198,065 and £863,947 respec; while the stocks under the later Act are known as New South 1925 Stock, and Funded Stock, the latter also subject to the onditions as that floated under 56 Vic. No 1. The amounts outig on the 30th June, 1897, were £222,255 and £520,458 respec- The rate of interest chargeable on the three loans just specified r cent. per annum.

Inscribed Stock Act was passed during 1883, and the first issue the new conditions took place during the same year; but the ming into force shortly after the negotiation of the £2,000,000 ure loan of 1882, the holders of the scrip had the option of iging the bonds for inscribed stock, a privilege which was availed he extent of £1,186,300. The total amount of inscribed stock to the 30th June, 1897, was £41,532,000, and the amount of benture bonds converted into the new scrip to that date was),500, making a total of £43,012,500 inscribed.

Colonial Stock Act was passed by the Imperial Government in and provides for the inscription and transfer of stock raised in nited Kingdom, and for stamp duty to be levied thereon. It fines the position of the British Government as regards Colonial edness, and provides that every document connected with stock ctions shall have printed upon it a distinct intimation that no y direct or indirect is incurred by the British Government in t to such stock, unless the loan is under Imperial guarantee.

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS.

Treasury bills current, as previously mentioned, include those raised t accumulated deficiencies in revenue, and those issued for loan s. The first portion of the former were issued during 1889 and 1890 authority of an Act passed in the former year, the amount of the eing £2,502,884. The Bills were not issued to the public, as the ry had large sums belonging to various trusts awaiting investment. nount of this deficiency loan outstanding at the middle of 1897 1,552,884. The second issue of deficiency bills took place in the total amount being £1,174,700. The bills were taken up by easury as in the former case, and the same arrangements for the ion of the amount have been made. The other class of Treasury ere issued for the purpose of raising funds which, under other cirnces, would have been obtained by ordinary loan. As late as 1890 outh Wales could borrow in London on very favourable terms; reaction was setting in, and in 1892, when it became necessary to , the conditions were most unfavourable. The colony was y unprepared for the changed circumstances, as it was committed gements for the construction of public works, and contracts had been accepted on the assumption that funds would be available. To tide over the difficulty, the Government, during the years 1892-3, issued Treasury bills to the amount of £4,000,000, under the authority of the Act 55 Vic. No. 7, passed in December, 1891, and £3,250,000 were placed on the market, through the medium of the London and Westminster Bank, and the balance, £750,000, taken up by the Savings Bank of New South Wales.

The following table gives the particulars of the various issues of Treasury bills, all of which, with the exception of the amounts at 3 and 4¼ per cent., were negotiated in London:—

Date.		Class of Security.	Nominal Rate of Interest per cent.	Amount of Principal	Net proceeds after expenses and accrued interest have been met.	Rate per £100 sterling.					
When Floated.	When Payable.					Paid by Government, allowing for redemption at par on maturity.			Yielded to original investors if stock is held till date of maturity.		
				£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1890	..	Treasury Bills (in aid of revenue)..	3	1,907,100	1,907,100	3	0	0	3	0	0
1891	..	do do ..	3	595,784	595,784	3	0	0	3	0	0
1895	..	do do ..	3	1,174,700	1,174,700	3	0	0	3	0	0
1892	1894	Treasury Bills (for loan services)..	4	1,250,000	1,239,998	4	9	2½	4	6	8⅝
1892	1896	do do ..	4	1,000,000	998,750	4	1	5½	3	19	10⅝
1892	1896	do do ..	4	263,500	262,510	4	2	9¾	4	0	0
1892	1896	do do ..	4¼	750,000	750,000	4	5	0	4	5	0
1893	1896	do do ..	4	10,800	10,759	4	3	5¼	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
1893	1896	do do ..	4	725,700	721,059	4	5	3¾	4	[illegible]	[illegible]

The 1890 and 1891 issues were originally placed at 4 per cent., but as the money representing their purchase was entirely at the disposal of the Treasury, being trust funds, the interest on all but £388,500 was reduced to 3 per cent. from 1st January, 1895. The amount at 4¼ per cent. was a loan by the Savings Bank of New South Wales.

ISSUE OF LOANS.

Since 1891 three loans, forming part of the Funded Debt, have been placed in London, and in each case the greater part of the proceeds was required for redemption purposes. In October, 1893, a loan of £2,500,000, bearing interest at 4 per cent., at a minimum of 98½, was issued in London. The average price realised was £100 11s. 10½d. The total amount subscribed was £6,465,000, and the gross proceeds amounted to £2,514,861. The actual interest paid by the Government, after allowing for charges, and redemption at par on maturity, is £4 3s. 0¼d. per £100.

In September, 1894, a loan of £832,000 was floated for the purpose of renewing two small loans maturing on the 1st January, 1895. The minimum was fixed at par, and the loan was subscribed over five-fold. The actual rate per £100 sterling payable by the Government, after allowing for charges and redemption at par on maturity, is £3 10s. 11d. while the rate yielded to investors, also allowing for redemption at par, is £3 9s. 4½d.

last loan raised in London was the £4,000,000 3 per cent. floated ber, 1895. The minimum price fixed was 94, and the average 1 was £96 18s. 3½d. The actual rate paid by the Government 00 is £3 4s. 3½d. while the yield to the investors is £3 3s. 2¼d. Funded Stock Acts were passed in 1892, 1894, and 1895 respec- The first sales under the 1892 Act were effected on the 8th ber, 1892, and from that date to the 31st December of the same ock to the amount of £227,000 was disposed of. On the 30th 1897, the total amount sold under this Act was £2,549,350, the amount sold under the 1894 Act to the same date was 47, and under the 1895 Act £520,458. The cost of the issues actically nil, except the ½ per cent. paid for brokerage, and even s only payable in respect of a portion of the issue, the bulk of ck being taken direct from the Treasury. During 1894, 1895, 896 small parcels were sold by the Government at a slight m.

following table shows the cost to the Government and the yield stors per £100 sterling on each of the issues from 1881 to 1897 :—

ate.	Nominal Rate of Interest per cent.	Amount of Principal.	Net Proceeds after Expenses and Accrued Interest have been met.	Rate per £100 sterling.	
When Payable.				Paid by Government, allowing for redemption at par on maturity.	Yielded to original investors if stock is held till date of maturity.
		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1910	4	* 2,050,000	2,095,973	3 18 6¼	3 17 11½
1933	4	* 2,000,000	2,012,154	4 0 2½	3 19 9½
1933	4	† 3,000,000	2,935,909	4 2 8¼	4 1 9¼
1933	4	† 3,000,000	2,958,831	4 2 0	4 1 1
1924	3½	† 5,500,000	5,024,458	3 18 4½	3 17 0½
1924	3½	† 5,000,000	4,921,878	4 0 3	3 18 11
1924	3½	† 5,500,000	5,074,026	3 17 7½	3 16 3¾
1918	3½	† 3,500,000	3,543,177	3 9 5¼	3 8 2
1918	3½	† 3,500,000	3,498,020	3 10 8	3 9 4
1918	3½	† 4,500,000	4,186,144	3 18 0	3 16 5½
1918	3½	† 494,200	....	3 18 0	3 16 5½
1933	4	† 2,500,000	2,440,549	4 3 0¼	4 1 8½
1918	3½	† 832,000	829,551	3 10 11	3 9 4¼
1935	3	† 4,000,000	3,804,573	3 4 3½	3 3 2¼
1924	3	† 20,000	20,000	3 0 0	3 0 0
1925	3	† 50,000	50,000	3 0 0	3 0 0
1924	3	† 178,065	177,651	3 0 8	3 0 0
1925	3	† 172,255	172,135	3 0 6	3 0 0
1912	4	‡ 227,000	226,596	4 1 0¼	4 0 0
	4	‡ 1,829,400	1,827,850	4 0 11	4 0 0
	4	‡ 307,430	313,410	3 18 2	3 18 2
	4	‡ 130,750	133,293	3 18 0½	3 18 0½
	3	‡ 180,000	180,000	3 0 0	3 0 0
	4	‡ 54,770	56,143	3 17 1	3 17 1
	3	‡ 863,947	862,776	3 0 8	3 0 0
	3	‡ 340,458	340,458	3 0 0	3 0 0

* Debentures. † Inscribed stock. ‡ Funded stock.

When the necessities of the Treasurer compelled him to borrow in 1891 to obtain funds to complete urgent public works, he was forced to accept a net price of 9[illegible], or £8 lower than the loan of 1888. In 1893, however, as previo[illegible]y mentioned, a 4 per cent. loan was floated at an average of £100 11s. [illegible]½d., the actual rate paid by the Government after allowing for redemption at par being £4 2s. 4d.; while in 1894, the average price realised for the £832,000 3½ per cent. conversion loan was £101 14s. 8d., and the rate paid by the Government £3 10s. 3½d., which was about that given for the 1889 loan. The 3 per cent. loan floated in 1895, however, was by far the most successful, and the rates paid by the Government and yielded to the investor are even lower than those of the 1888 loan, which was the most satisfactory till the 1895 loan was placed.

In the foregoing page[illegible] said of the indebtedness of the colony. It would, the[illegible] air to say something of the resources on which the [illegible] ly as security for the public creditors, but before exa[illegible] re of these resources it may be well to recapitulate the li[illegible] ding. These are as follow:—

Public D[illegible] loan services...	£58,596,914
Treasury [illegible]	2,477,584
Uninvest[illegible] ust [illegible]	3,830,549
Total..................	£64,905,047

No allowance has been made [illegible] regoing figures for balances to credit of either loans or trust acc[illegible] s money to the credit of the General Loan Account is allotted, and awaits expenditure on various services, whilst the Trust Funds are liabilities whether represented by securities or cash. The interest payable on the sum of £64,905,047 outstanding amounts to £2,337,343. The assets of the Government of the colony are the public works, elsewhere described in this volume, which yield an income of £1,739,000 after all charges of maintenance and working have been defrayed; and the public lands, of which 126,300,000 acres are leased for pastoral or mining purposes, and 20,200,000 acres sold on deferred payments, the balance due in respect of which amounts to £12,380,000, bearing interest at the rate of 4 and 5 per cent. From the public estate there is obtained an annual revenue of about £1,150,000, or allowing £150,000 for administration, a net revenue of £1,000,000, so that the colony has a revenue of £2,739,000, or £401,657 in excess of the whole charge for the public debt, without having to resort to taxation of any kind, and without parting with any more of the public lands. This fact alone ought to be evidence, if any such were wanted, of the ability of New South Wales to meet its engagements with the public creditors; but this is a point on which little need be said, for the security enjoyed by those who hold the debentures of the colony lies more in the wealth and integrity people than in the actual possessions of the Government.

PRIVATE FINANCE.

N previous editions of this work an estimate was given of the value
of private property, distinguishing land from improvements, and
owing separately the value of each class of personal property. The
timate for March, 1893, showed a total of £405,187,000, or £336 per
ad. Since the date named there has been a general decline in values,
d as no great increase of population has taken place to counterbalance
e fall in the average value of property per head, the total for the
hole colony is doubtless now below the figures for 1893. No detailed
timate, however, has been made, and the general summary of property
lues has, therefore, been omitted. A general valuation of the colony
now in progress, and will be available at an early date; it may, there-
re, suffice to say that the popular impression of the extent of the
cline in property value is not fully borne out by the returns so far
ceived. The value of property, the subject of municipal assessment,
ill be found in a subsequent chapter devoted to Local Government,
d the condition of the public estate has already been given under
e head of Public Finance.

IMPORTATION OF CAPITAL.

Money has been freely poured into New South Wales, especially by
ritish investors. During the twenty-six years from 1871 to 1896, the
um of £100,031,000 was invested in the colony. Of this large sum,
49,020,000, or nearly half, represented the proceeds of loans obtained
y the Government and Local Government bodies; £7,725,000, the
nount of capital introduced by persons who came to the colony and
ade it their home; and £43,286,000, the amount of other capital sent
r investment. Under the third category are included investments of
rsons living abroad, the money introduced by banks and finance com-
nies, and the lendings of private persons. The total sum mentioned,
z., £100,031,000, did not, it should be understood, actually reach the
lony, since there were large counter payments to be made on account
the earnings of capital already in the colony, and the income drawn
y absentees. The total of such payments was, during the twenty-six
ars referred to, £95,563,000; so that the actual capital imported was
4,468,000.

The importation of capital by the Government has already been dealt
ith at length in the portion of this volume dealing with loans, and
tailed reference thereto is not needed here. The import of capital by
rsons who have taken up their residence in the colony has averaged

nearly £300,000 a year, and has been a material element in the progress of the colony, as it has not entailed the export of interest or the repayment of the principal. The capital invested by persons not living in the colony amounted to £43,286,000, including money by the leading banks, and representing their capital, with the deposits received in Great Britain and employed in the colony; capital employed by other investment companies; mining capital; and miscellaneous investments, including advances on mortgages and investments in real estate in the city of Sydney.

The following are the particulars of the investments referred to above, grouped in periods of five years, except the last period, which embraces six years:—

Classification.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-96.	1871-96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital imported by the Government	2,861,000	5,458,000	16,066,000	11,571,000	13,064,000	49,020,000
Capital introduced by persons taking up their residence in the Colony	751,000	1,983,000	2,719,000	1,387,000	885,000	7,725,000
Capital invested in the Colony by persons living abroad	2,038,000	8,597,000	13,791,000	15,187,000	3,673,000	43,286,000
Total capital introduced	5,650,000	16,038,000	32,576,000	28,145,000	17,622,000	100,031,000

The figures just given do not cover the entire case. British money was employed in the colony prior to 1871, but not to any large extent, although no inconsiderable sum was invested in pastoral properties, especially in the Riverina district, by persons residing in other colonies, chiefly in Victoria. The income derived from the investments last mentioned, and the income of absentees generally, reach some £1,200,000, which, capitalised at 5 per cent., amounts to £24,000,000. The import of money due to the increase in the public debt from 1871 to the end of 1896, has been estimated at £49,020,000, but the actual State and municipal debt owed outside the colony was £54,384,000, so that practically the debt of New South Wales to persons outside its boundaries in excess of the value of property outside the colony owned by New South Wales residents is as follows:—

	Amount.	Income.
To public creditors	£53,014,000	£1,950,000
,, municipal creditors	1,370,000	59,000
,, private creditors and absentees	67,286,000	2,798,000
Total	£121,670,000	£4,807,000

sum required to meet the interest on investments in New South , viz., £4,807,000, is undoubtedly very large, representing as it 3 14s. 10d. per head of population. A considerable portion of this ly not a burthen on the community, being the result of antecedent tion. Thus the mining industry alone pays £900,000 as profits penses on New South Wales mines owned out of the colony; but income would cease if the mines failed to be productive, this nt stands in a different category to the interest on the public debt, mple. Other payments, standing on much the same footing as the gs of mines, amount to about £1,150,000, leaving the payments made to the creditors of the colony, irrespective of production, imately £2,757,000.

INCOME.

estimate of the incomes of persons living or holding property in South Wales was, prior to the Census of 1891, more a matter of ation than of exact calculation. The information obtained, however, under the provisions of the Census and Industrial Returns Act year mentioned provided material by means of which a fair imation could be made both as to the amount and the sources of es, and this material, with the necessary corrections to bring it up year 1894, has been made use of in the following computations. assification of incomes that has been adopted is somewhat lacking ntific precision, but no better presentation of the figures is possible. the item of transport appears as £3,184,000, but the greater part sum might be assigned to the pastoral, agricultural, and other industries as being directly due to them, and it may here be d out that the profits derived by the Railway Commissioners from ng the railways and tramways are not included, as the figures refer vate incomes only. The earnings of the commercial class are set at £7,468,000; but in this sum are not included profits of banks her lending institutions, as their incomes are already included with dustries from which they are primarily derived. Thus, the manuing industry is credited with an income of £7,940,000, of which 0,000 represents wages, the remainder—£2,550,000—being the gs of fixed capital, rents or rental value of premises, and interest on borrowed money. Similarly, the income derived from the al industry is set down as £9,292,000; but a very large portion amount consists of the earnings of financial institutions, though, ght naturally be supposed, the exact amount so earned, and the t to be set down as belonging to the nominal owners, cannot be ined with any pretension to accuracy.

total income derived from New South Wales, or enjoyed by s residing in the colony, for the year 1894, was £59,080,000, of which a distribution is given below. Since that time the conditions have not materially changed :—

Incomes derived from—	£
Professional and municipal	3,129,000
Domestic service, supply of food or lodging	3,574,000
Commerce	7,468,000
Transport by land or sea, including private railways	3,184,000
Manufacturing or preparing materials	7,940,000
Construction, works and buildings	5,834,000
Agriculture and dairying	5,118,000
Pastoral industry	9,292,000
Forestry and fisheries	410,000
Mining	4,264,000
Public Service, excluding railways	2,978,000
Rental value of land and buildings used as dwellings	5,661,000
Other incomes	228,000
Total	£59,080,000

As is well known, the Public Service includes several branches of employment not usually associated with governmental administration in other lands; the figures inserted in the table include the earnings of all branches of State employ except the railways, the incomes derived from which have been placed under the head of transport. The earnings of persons engaged in commerce do not include those derived by capitalists from their investments, unless their capital was employed in trading. The rental value of land and buildings used as dwellings includes not only properties which produce rent, but also the annual value of premises occupied by their owners.

Another grouping of incomes may be made into employers, employed, and persons working on their own account. To these classes has been added a fourth—professional persons, with whom the servants of the State have been included for convenience rather than for accurate classification, seeing that the Civil Servants are in reality wage-earners. There are, however, various reasons which render it desirable that the class denominated wage-earners should be restricted so as to include only those who are popularly so called. Adopting these groups, the numbers and earnings are as follow :—

Class.	Income.
	£
Wage-earners	23,636,000
Persons working on their own account, exclusive of professional persons	6,959,000
Professional persons and Civil Servants	5,633,000
Employers, with earnings of capital owned in New South Wales	14,181,000
Rental value of buildings used as dwellings	5,661,000
Absentee incomes	3,010,000
Total £	59,080,000

ie earnings of employers and of capital employed in New South s are placed at £14,181,000; this sum, however, represents not ly the income of the employing class, but also of companies carry- n co-operative enterprises, depositors in financial institutions, and ncome derived from invested capital, no matter how small may be mount. It unfortunately happens that there are no data on which l be founded an estimate of the amount of income derived by ns superintending the employment of their own capital, as distin- ied from capital indirectly employed.

ith wage-earners are included persons assisting relatives. Such ns are usually remunerated indirectly, with, in some instances, the ion of a small money wage. The total income of wage-earners is 636,000, distributed amongst 284,000 males, receiving £21,560,000, 60,600 females with £2,076,000. These figures give an average of le more than £76 per male, and £34 per female, wage-earner during re months.

ie earnings of females amounted to at least £4,976,000; but their ne was possibly considerably more, seeing that the income of female alists and land-owners is in addition to the sum set down as ngs. The wage-earning females had an income, as already stated, 2,076,000, but to this sum should be added the approximate value of l which servants receive. Women working on their own account, numbered 13,000, had an income of £920,150, while those engaged rned professions, or employed by the State, numbered 11,200, with come of £650,000.

e income of £59,080,000 disclosed in the foregoing tables cannot oked upon as entirely within the disposition of the persons to n it accrues. The actual cost of living during the year 1894 be set down as £46,655,900; in addition to this expenditure, ,000 was paid away in local rates; calls by banks absorbed £750,000; ents to the State out of income by holders of land conditionally pur- d amounted to £1,052,000, and life insurance premiums, £910,000 were, of course, losses by fire, accident and the like which further ed the spendable income; while £3,010,000, the income of tees, was expended abroad. When every allowance has been , it will be found that in spite of the serious checks to business ienced during the year, the savings of the community reached the respectable sum of £3,300,000.

PROBATES.

e value of the estates in which wills were proved in the colony, r which letters of administration were granted, has increased very ly. On page 801 are given the values of probates, including letters ministration, from 1887 to 1896, and on page 911 the value of estates hich stamp duties were paid from 1890 onward. The value stated for probate purposes is usually greater than that on which stamp duty paid, chiefly because the one includes debts and encumbrances, while other is exclusive of them. The probate returns also include occasio duplications, but the number and value of such estates are not large, wh the amount of debts included reaches a high figure, seeing that difference between the nominal value of the estates for which probate letters of administration were granted and the actual amount on wh duty was paid during the last five years amounted to fully 20 per ce The table must also be taken with the qualification that during 1875 sta duties were abolished, and were not reimposed until 1881. For all ye embraced within this period the returns are incomplete as regards t amount sworn to. Though the value of estates cannot be taken as the ba of an estimate of the absolute wealth of New South Wales, the numb of estates and their value give some indication of the distribution of th wealth. The following table gives the number of wills proved an letters of administration granted from 1865 to 1896. It also gives th number of estates compared with every hundred deaths of the who population, of adult males and females, and of adult males. It necessary to point out that in consequence of the change in th financial year, the figures for 1895–96 have, in some cases, had to estimated, pending the completion of certain returns which are bei prepared :—

Period.	Proportion of estates per 100 deaths of adult males.	Proportion of estates per 100 deaths of adults (males and females).	Proportion of estates per 100 deaths of total population.	Number of esta
1865–69	18·9	12·7	5·7	2,079
1870–74	22·7	15·0	7·5	2,747
1875–79	30·9	20·2	9·4	4,973
1880–84	34·8	22·4	11·0	6,825
1885–89	36·9	23·8	11·5	8,309
1890–94	40·2	25·1	12·8	9,784
1895–96	44·3	27·5	15·1	4,642

The figures just given clearly point to the fact that year by ye property is becoming more widely distributed, and this conclusion borne out by figures which appear in other parts of this volume. the period covered by the table, which may be taken as approximate thirty years, the proportion of persons holding property has near trebled; for whereas in 1865–69 not quite six persons out of hundred held property, the proportionate number in 1895-96 wa fifteen, and this increase in distribution was accompanied by doubling in the value of the individual estates—a remarkable conditi of progress, the equal of which it would be vain to look for in oth countries.

In the edition of this work for 1892 it was assumed that few wom held property worth taking into consideration in estimates founded e probate returns. Researches since made show this assumption to quite erroneous, and so far from property being almost exclusively nfined to men, women have estates amounting in the aggregate to no considerable value. From the available returns it appears that out of ery hundred estates paying stamp duty twenty-one are left by women, , in other words, the number of women's estates paying duty is nearly per cent. of the number of estates belonging to men—a proportion together too large to be neglected.

In the chapter of this volume dealing with employment, it is pointed t that at the time of the Census there was an unemployed population adult breadwinners equal to 4·8 per cent. of their whole number, and is notorious that the number has increased since the date mentioned. is obvious that an increasing ratio of wealth accumulation d an increasing distribution are consistent with a dearth of employ- ent amongst a certain class of the community. It is a sound senti- ent that a condition of regular employment of the whole population illing to work is more conducive to real prosperity than a condition hich, while affording increased opportunities of saving to a large pro- rtion of the community, leaves a not inconsiderable section uncertain to their means of support during a large part of the year. The con- ition of affairs to which allusion has been made is one of the incon- stencies of modern progress by no means peculiar to Australia, and to medy it is perhaps the chief aim of modern social legislation.

In the absence of the exact figures which it may be possible in the ture to obtain under the present system of direct taxation, the actual istribution of wealth in New South Wales is a matter on which opinions ay differ; but the collections under the Stamp Duties Act afford data hich indicate the distribution with more or less accuracy. The follow- g are the returns for seven years and a half:—

ar.	Under the value of £5,000.		£5,000 and under the value of £12,500.		£12,500 and under the value of £25,000.		£25,000 and under the value of £50,000.		£50,000 and over.		Total.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£		£
890	1,644	1,281,596	61	472,820	35	654,055	11	412,350	17	3,669,605	1,768	6,490,426
891	1,836	1,254,339	74	604,390	28	512,425	16	506,580	6	717,770	1,960	3,595,504
892	1,990	1,390,502	76	596,480	20	381,860	19	720,320	14	1,488,145	2,119	4,577,307
893	1,795	1,235,445	68	533,455	24	381,960	11	394,145	8	1,284,735	1,906	3,829,740
894	1,912	1,361,750	68	540,490	29	494,815	15	563,890	7	1,171,005	2,031	4,131,950
895	903	556,375	31	235,075	13	246,855	8	277,875	6	564,955	961	1,881,135
95–6	2,076	1,311,800	54	434,090	22	376,065	12	429,175	16	1,726,930	2,180	4,278,069
96–7	1,959	1,180,785	57	463,028	24	439,245	17	588,925	15	1,724,425	2,072	4,396,408
Total	14,115	9,572,592	489	3,879,828	195	3,487,280	100	3,893,260	89	12,347,579	14,997	33,180,539

* Half-year ended 30th June.

Owing to the large number of women holding property, no comparison can be considered on correct lines which neglects their numbers. If, therefore, it be assumed that the adult population at the middle of 18[illegible] numbered 656,640, and of these 27·5 per cent.—that is to say, about 180,575 persons—were the possessors of property, and assuming further that the sum of £405,187,000, which was the valuation of the wealth of the colony in 1893, was distributed amongst the 180,575 persons in the same proportions as the £33,180,539 ascertained in the table just given was distributed amongst the 14,987 persons in whose estates stamp duties were paid, then the following would be the present distribution of property in New South Wales :—

Class of Estates.	Persons with estates.	Total value of estates of each class.	Proportion of total property in each class.
	No.	£	per cent.
Under £5,000	169,955	116,897,000	28·9
£5,000 and under £12,500	5,888	47,379,000	11·7
£12,500 and under £25,000	2,348	42,585,000	10·5
£25,000 and under £50,000	1,312	47,543,000	11·7
Over £50,000	1,072	150,783,000	37·2
Total	180,575	405,187,000	100·0

These figures show that nearly one half of the property of the colo is in the hands of 2,384, nearly three-fifths in the hands of 4,732, an almost three-fourths in the hands of 10,620 persons.

According to the proportions already ascertained, the possessors property would comprise 142,185 males and 38,390 females; and th who have no property, or so little as not to be worth while making the subject of formal bequest, 476,065 adults, viz., 233,535 males 242,530 females. These figures are given with no little diffid because all deductions based on the probate returns, and not tak into consideration the ages of the persons leaving property, are ope error. Further researches now in progress may or may not support figures, but it can be said that, so far as investigations have procee nothing has been disclosed that would tend to discredit their substan accuracy.

In the Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom the number estates on which probate duty was paid for the six years 1888-89

3–94 is stated at 302,055. Making the liberal allowance of one-th for successions, of which the number is not given, the percentage ersons owning property would be about 8·8, as against 15·1 in New th Wales.

CURRENCY.

he coins circulating in Australasia are those of the United Kingdom. d is the standard; the silver and copper current are more properly ns than coins. Gold coins are legal tender to any amount; silver for amount not exceeding forty shillings; and bronze for one shilling. standard weight and fineness of each coin are given below. The t current weight of a sovereign is 122·5 Imperial grains, and of a -sovereign 61·125 grains :—

Denomination of Coin.		Standard Weight.	Standard Fineness.
		Imperial grains.	
l	Sovereign.................	123·27447	Eleven-twelfths fine gold, or decimal fineness 0·91666, one-twelfth copper alloy.
	Half-sovereign..........	61·63723	
r	Crown.....................	436·36363	Thirty-seven-fortieths fine silver, or decimal fineness 0·925, and three-fortieths copper alloy.
	Double Florin...........	349·09090	
	Half-crown	218·18181	
	Florin	174·54545	
	Shilling..................	87·27272	
	Sixpence.................	43·63636	
	Threepence	21·81818	
ze......	Penny..............	145·83333	Mixed metal, 95 parts copper, 4 parts tin, and 1 part zinc. (The Coinage Act does not prescribe these proportions for bronze coins, but the alloy used is as stated.)
	Halfpenny	87·50000	
	Farthing	43·75000	

old coins only are struck at the Sydney Mint, though silver and ze of English coinage are issued. The Governments of New th Wales and Victoria are endeavouring to induce the Imperial orities to grant them permission to coin silver for circulation in the tralian colonies.

andard or sovereign gold has a fineness of 22 carat, and is worth 17s. 10½d. per ounce; pure gold, or 24 carat, is worth £4 4s 11$\frac{6}{11}$d. ounce. The whole of the gold contained in deposits sent to the ney Branch of the Royal Mint for melting, assaying, and coining ccounted for at the rate of £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce standard or reign gold.

S ilver is 0·925 fine. Owing partly to its greatly incr prodυ and still more to its demonetisation in a large pa Europe the restrictions placed upon its free coinage in cou which ave a double standard of coinage, its value has decr by over er cent. during the last twenty-five years. The av price of dard silver in the London market for each year since is given e annual reports of the Deputy Master of the Royal as foll .

Year.	Price per andard ounce.	Year.	Price per standard ounce.	Year.	Price standard
	d.		d.		d.
1871	$60\frac{9}{16}$	1880	$52\frac{1}{4}$	1889	42
1872	$60\frac{1}{4}$	1881	$51\frac{3}{4}$	1890	47
1873	$59\frac{1}{4}$	1882	$51\frac{13}{16}$	1891	45
1874	$58\frac{5}{16}$	1883	$50\frac{9}{16}$	1892	39
1875	$56\frac{13}{16}$	1884	$50\frac{11}{16}$	1893	35
1876	53	1885	$48\frac{5}{8}$	1894	29
1877	$54\frac{3}{4}$	1886	$45\frac{3}{8}$	1895	29
1878	$52\frac{9}{16}$	1887	$44\frac{5}{8}$	1896	30
1879	$51\frac{3}{16}$	1888	$42\frac{7}{8}$		

The fluctuations in its value during 1896 are shown in the follo table of average monthly prices :—

Month.	Price per standard ounce.	Month.	Price per standard ounce.	Month.	Pr per st oun
	d.		d.		d
January.........	$30\frac{5}{8}$	May	$31\frac{1}{16}$	September ...	30
February	31	June	$31\frac{3}{8}$	October.........	30
March	$31\frac{5}{16}$	July	$31\frac{7}{16}$	November.....	29
April	$31\frac{1}{16}$	August	$30\frac{11}{16}$	December......	29

The nominal value of one pound (avoirdupois) of bronze coined pence is 4s., and into halfper e or farthings, 3s. 4d.

The weight of gold sent for coinage from the first opening of the on the 14th May, 1855, to the end of 1896, was 22,676,76 at £84,583,038. Of this quantity New South Wales pr

2,814 oz., of the value of £32,194,526, the amount from each colony g :—

Colony where gold was produced.	Weight.	Value.
	oz.	£
Queensland	9,787,908	34,890,200
New South Wales	8,502,814	32,194,526
New Zealand	2,557,626	10,118,128
Victoria	1,442,690	5,923,511
South Australia	80,222	284,592
Tasmania	12,293	46,374
Other countries	32,750	115,477
Old coin	260,458	1,010,230
Total	22,676,761	84,583,038

The greater part of the gold won in New South Wales and Queens-d, and also part of the produce of New Zealand and South Australia, ne to Sydney for coinage; but by far the larger portion of the gold the colonies last mentioned, as well as of the other colonies of the up, goes to Melbourne. The total value of gold raised in Australasia the end of 1896 amounted to £388,533,999, of which £84,583,038, ivalent to 21·8 per cent., passed through the Mint of this colony. e value of gold coin and bullion issued up to the end of 1896 was 4,423,796, of which £81,374,000 worth of gold was converted into n, the value of sovereigns and half-sovereigns being:—

Year.	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Total.
	£	£	£
1855 to 1886	51,846,500	2,321,500	54,168,000
1887	2,002,000	67,000	2,069,000
1888	2,187,000	....	2,187,000
1889	3,262,000	32,000	3,294,000
1890	2,808,000	....	2,808,000
1891	2,596,000	77,000	2,673,000
1892	2,837,000	....	2,837,000
1893	2,844,000	125,000	2,969,000
1894	3,067,000	....	3,067,000
1895	2,758,000	....	2,758,000
1896	2,544,000	....	2,544,000
Total	78,751,500	2,622,500	81,374,000

Bronze coin was first issued from the Mint in 1868, and silve in 1879, the respective value of each to the close of the year being:—Bronze, £43,550; and silver, £459,350. The amount of particular currency issued to the end of 1896 is shown in the foll table:—

Year.	Silver Coin.						
	Crowns and Double Florins.	Half-crowns.	Florins.	Shillings.	Six-pences.	Three-pences.	Total.
	£	£		£	£	£	£
1868 to 1886	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	24,500	37,250	321,400
1887	585	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,850	500	690	6,115
1888	215	[illegible]	[illegible]	3,250	3,100	2,610	11,285
1889	200	[illegible]	[illegible]	3,900	2,700	3,975	22,375
1890	200	[illegible]	[illegible]	9,200	4,500	5,375	35,175
1891	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,100	5,100	4,200	17,200
1892	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,300	2,500	1,625	13,925
1893	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	3,500	1,000	425	10,025
1894	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	900	1,500	900	6,300
1895	100	[illegible]	[illegible]	250	300	2,500	4,750
1896	......	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,200	1,300	900	10,800
Total... £	1,300	124,600	98,600	127,400	47,000	60,450	459,350

The difference between the nominal value of silver and the average per standard ounce paid by the London Mint represents the seign or gross profit. The coinage or nominal value of silver per sta ounce is 5s. 6d., and the price per ounce paid by the London Mint d 1896 averaged 2s. 6$\frac{5}{16}$d., the difference—2s. 11$\frac{11}{16}$d.—representin seignorage accrued. Against this must be placed the loss to the perial Government by purchase of worn silver at its nominal v but after making all necessary allowances for loss by abrasion, mi etc., a considerable margin of profit remains. As, however, silver are merely tokens, the demand for them is necessarily limited, the av annual issue of silver coin by the Sydney Mint for twenty-eight being about £16,000. The average price of silver from 1871 to was about 48d. per ounce. If all the silver issued by the Sydney since 1871 had been coined there, the gross profits for the whole p would not have amounted to more than about £100,000, and from would have had to be deducted the loss on old coin withdrawn and cost of minting.

The gold bullion issued by the Mint is partly pure gold in quantities for the use of jewellers, chemists, and others; b consists of 10-oz. ingots of sovereign gold, which has, of late principally exported to India by the Sydney branch of the "Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris." The total amount of gold bullion issued during 1896 was valued at £67,649, and to the end of 1896 at £3,049,796.

Worn gold coins have been received at the Mint for recoinage since 1876, and silver coins since 1873. Light gold coins are received in parcels of not less than £50 nominal value, and recoined free of charge, but depositors must bear the loss by abrasion. The nominal value of gold coin withdrawn from circulation during 1896 was only £183, the net loss by recoinage being £3, or 1·890 per cent. For the whole period from 1876 to 1896 the corresponding figures were £824,495, £2,707, and 0·328 per cent.

Silver coin of the value of £5,331, and weighing 19,384·33 oz., was withdrawn during 1896. On this the net loss, after melting, was found to be 2,176·78 oz., or 11·23 per cent. The value of silver coin withdrawn from 1873 to 1896 was £143,917; its weight, 523,332·37 oz.; and the net loss, 65,576·22 oz., or 12·53 per cent. All silver coin withdrawn is forwarded to London for recoinage.

The expense of the Sydney branch of the Royal Mint is borne by the local Government, £15,000 being set apart annually for that purpose. Special votes for construction, repairs, and furniture have, however, been passed occasionally, as will be seen from the subjoined table, which shows the total cost of administration, as well as the net cost to the colony for the last ten years:—

Year ended 31st December.	Actual Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.			Mint Receipts (paid into Consolidated Revenue).	Net Annual Charge to Colony for working of Mint.
	On Ordinary Administration (including Pensions, Stores, and Stationery).	On Construction, Repairs, and Furniture.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1887	13,487	17	13,504	10,328	3,176
1888	13,495	1	13,496	10,906	2,590
1889	13,622	1,922	15,544	12,084	3,460
1890	14,955	120	15,075	13,208	1,867
1891	14,357	417	14,774	13,929	845
1892	13,344	283	13,627	11,652	1,975
1893	14,293	555	14,848	13,198	1,650
1894	14,028	5,823	19,851	16,705	3,146
1895	13,937	348	14,285	14,510	*225
1896	14,277	493	14,770	14,847	*77

* Excess receipts.

The receipts of the Mint, which are paid into the Consolidated Revenue, are made up of charges for coining gold, fees for assays, etc., and profits on sale of silver. The Mint retains all silver contained in deposits, and makes payment for the amount in excess of 2 per cent.

at a ra ch is from time to time notified in the *Gazette*, and from 1 uary to 30th September, 1896, was 1s. 9d., and fr Octobe 3rd August, 1897, 2s. per oz. fine, and from th mentic ate, 1s. 6d. per oz. fine. The following table sho scale c es :—

Quantity.	Gold raised in New South Wales.	Gold certified t the produce of any or country other N. S. Wales
In deposits of less than 500 ounces, standard.	6d. per ounce, six shillings being charged for a deposit under 12 s.	5d. per ounce, fi lings being c for a deposit ur ounces.
In deposits of 500 ounces and over, but less than 5,000 ounces, standard.	r ounce	3d. per ounce.
In deposits of 5,000 ounces, standard, and over.	2d. per ounce	1d. per ounce.

The total receipts of the Mint since its establishment in 185 shown below :—

Year.	Mint Charges.		Profit on Sale of Silver.	Fees for Assays and Crushings, and Proceeds of Sweep.	Tota Mint Re (paid i Consolid Revenu
	On New South Wales Gold.	On Gold of other Colonies or Countries.			
	£	£	£	£	£
1855 to 1886	261,033	127,323	44,602	53,897	486,8
1887	2,119	4,003	2,796	1,410	10,3
1888	1,649	3,483	3,678	2,096	10,90
1889	2,299	4,613	3,434	1,738	12,08
1890	2,432	4,152	4,772	1,852	13,2
1891	2,881	3,854	5,319	1,875	13,92
1892	2,938	3,893	3,164	1,657	11,65
1893	3,624	3,713	4,290	1,571	13,19
1894	4,439	3,759	5,402	3,105	16,70
1895	3,832	3,125	5,058	2,495	14,51
1896	3,487	2,956	5,058	3,346	14,84
Total	290,733	164,874	87,573	75,042	618,2

In former issues of this work tables were given purpor the amount of coin in private hands. These tables were the Mint, and were deduced from the statistics of gold and ted and exported. For 1896 the amounts would be :—

Coinage.	Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
d	4,536,882	3 9 11
rer	398,205	0 6 2
nze	34,633	0 0 6
Total....................	4,969,720	3 16 7

en contended that passengers by outward steamers usually em a supply of gold which greatly exceeds the amount brought y by passengers inward. This may be conceded, inasmuch as commencing the voyage would naturally be possessed of a of money than those whose voyage is practically over. Early general manager of one of the principal banks in Sydney turns from the three banking institutions with the largest isiness, and it was found that the coin paid in was equal to lf the value of the notes deposited at the same time. From this laimed that the coin in private hands is not more than half the itstanding, which at the time the estimate was made was not £1,450,000. On this assumption the coin in private hands been £725,000, as compared with £4,416,000 estimated it as being the probable quantity at the same period. maintaining the absolute accuracy of the latter estimate, pointed out that there are many sound reasons why the £725,000 should not be entertained. Bank notes are n circulation by several of the banks until they are practi- out, and a large number of persons not over fastidious objections to carrying notes about their persons when gold ured. The assumption that coin is withdrawn in large y outward-bound passengers may be correct so far as gold is but not so as regards silver. It is, therefore, probable that mains in the country, and the estimate of the Mint in regard l may be accepted with some deduction for coin lost or des- nother source of the accumulation of coin in private hands is hich recent events prove to be quite a common practice ly, and the indestructible and unimpeachable sovereign is eferred to the perishable bank note. Lastly, a large pro- he half-sovereigns issued remains in circulation with silver as nd not being paid into the banks would not be subject to the f the estimate of the banking authority already alluded to.

ate, founded partly on the records and partly on observation ade by the author, which shows that the estimate of the Mint must be abandoned as being too high, and the amount of coin in priv hands may be approximately stated as follows :—

	£
Gold	1,856,000
Silver	363,000
Bronze	31,000
Total	£2,250,000

This is equal to £1 14s. 8d. per inhabitant at the close of 1896. To sum shown must be added £1,237,971 note circulation, so that the t active currency would appear to be about £3,488,000, or £2 13s. 9d. inhabitant. As, however, the note issue is fully covered by gold in Australasian colonies, it is omitted from the following tables, in wh on the other hand, the coin held by banks is included for the sak comparison. Including bank reserves, the gold and silver held New South Wales amounted to no less than £6 18s. 5d. per inhabitan a sum only slightly below that shown for France, and considerably excess of that shown for any other European country. The figures gi in the tables are published on the authority of the Director of the Uni States Mint, Washington, with the exception of those for Australa which are based on a special estimate. The total stocks of money h in various countries in 1896 were as follow :—

Country.	Gold.	Silver.		
		Full Tender.	Limited Tender.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	120,012,000	....	25,009,000	25,009,000
Austria-Hungary	34,360,000	5,138,000	8,220,000	13,358,000
Belgium	10,275,000	10,275,000	1,439,000	11,714,000
Bulgaria	164,000	699,000	699,000	1,398,000
Denmark	3,391,000	....	1,110,000	1,110,000
France	158,646,000	89,249,000	11,898,000	101,147,000
Germany	138,713,000	18,906,000	23,633,000	42,539,000
Greece	103,000	103,000	206,000	309,000
Italy	20,632,000	2,569,000	5,446,000	8,015,000
Netherlands	5,507,000	10,871,000	678,000	11,549,000
Norway	1,541,000	....	411,000	411,000
Portugal	1,048,000	....	1,521,000	1,521,000
Roumania	7,932,000	....	2,178,000	2,178,000
Russia	100,407,000	719,000	8,220,000	8,939,000
Servia	308,000	....	349,000	349,000
Spain	7,932,000	....	10,131,000	10,131,000
Sweden	1,747,000	....	1,007,000	1,007,000
Switzerland	3,288,000	....	432,000	432,000
Turkey	10,275,000	6,165,000	2,055,000	8,220,000
China	....	154,125,000	....	154,125,000
India	....	195,225,000	....	195,225,000
Japan	16,337,000	14,221,000	3,802,000	18,023,000
Siam	123,000	39,723,000	....	39,723,000
Straits Settlements	....	49,320,000	411,000	49,731,000
Egypt	26,571,000	....	1,069,000	1,069,000
Canada	3,288,000	1,028,000	206,000	1,234,000
Central American States	103,000	2,466,000	....	2,466,000
Cuba	3,083,000	308,000	....	308,000
Hayti	822,000	617,000	308,000	925,000
Mexico	1,028,000	19,934,000	....	19,934,000
South American States	8,220,000	7,193,000	....	7,193,000
United States	138,137,000	114,176,000	15,577,000	129,753,000
Hawaii	822,000	206,000	....	206,000
Australasia	31,953,000	....	1,209,000	1,209,000

nts per inhabitant for the same countries are shown below:—

ountry.	Gold.			Silver.			Uncovered Paper.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
lom	3	1	1	0	12	9	0	11	8	4	5	6
ary	0	15	5	0	6	0	0	18	11	2	0	4
	1	12	7	1	17	2	2	7	0	5	16	9
	0	1	0	0	8	6		....		0	9	6
	1	9	6	0	9	8	0	8	3	2	7	5
	4	2	8	2	12	8	0	10	6	7	5	10
	2	13	1	0	16	3	0	9	11	3	19	3
	0	0	11	0	2	10	1	6	6	1	10	3
	0	13	4	0	5	2	1	2	5	2	0	11
	1	2	11	2	5	4	1	7	10	4	16	1
	0	15	5	0	4	1	0	7	10	1	7	4
	0	4	1	0	6	0	2	8	1	2	18	2
	1	9	5	0	8	1	0	9	0	2	6	6
	0	15	11	0	1	5	0	15	3	1	12	7
	0	2	8	0	3	0	0	5	4	0	11	0
	0	8	10	0	11	3	1	3	6	2	3	7
	0	7	3	0	4	2		....		0	11	5
	1	1	11	0	2	11	0	19	7	2	4	5
	0	9	6	0	7	6		....		0	17	0
		....		0	14	0		....		0	14	0
		....		0	13	2	0	0	6	0	13	8
	0	7	5	0	8	2		....		0	15	7
	0	0	6	7	18	11		....		7	19	5
ments		....		13	1	9		....		13	1	9
	3	15	11	0	3	1		....		3	19	0
	0	11	4	0	4	3	1	4	10	2	0	5
ican States	0	0	4	0	8	10	0	5	10	0	15	0
	1	14	3	0	3	5		....		1	17	8
	0	16	5	0	18	6	0	16	10	2	11	9
	0	1	8	1	11	8	0	1	4	1	14	8
an States	0	4	7	2	0	0	3	2	10	5	7	5
	1	18	5	1	16	1	1	4	3	4	18	9
	8	4	5	2	1	2		....		10	5	7
	7	7	10	0	5	7		....		7	13	5

MOVEMENTS OF GOLD.

discovery of gold in the year 1851 large quantities of that he form of coin as well as bullion—have been exported from sian colonies every year. The returns of gold imported and m each of the colonies, calculated for ten-year periods from 51 to the end of 1896, are given herewith. The tables also ount by which the exports have exceeded the imports in the nies, or *vice versa*, as the case may be. The largest exporters vill be found, are the largest producers, as Victoria, New d Queensland. The other colonies now produce very little uffices to meet their local requirements. The returns of the gold imports and exports for New South Wales, it must be remembered, are swollen by large quantities of Queensland gold, which is simply sent to Sydney to be minted, and then exported in the shape of coin. The imports and exports for each colony were as follow :—

Colony.	Imports of Gold.					
	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-96.	1851-96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	3,874,764	12,148,037	13,308,140	18,018,550	16,492,046	[illegible]
Victoria	4,349,457	11,821,815	10,868,837	7,486,861	8,100,891	[illegible]
Queensland	......	367,025	1,383,822	2,532,705	2,109,572	[illegible]
South Australia	1,091,012	882,149	1,622,202	1,919,341	1,880,787	[illegible]
Western Australia	......	19,310	39,710	223,654	2,341,273	[illegible]
Tasmania	......	59,500	402,446	569,958	317,350	[illegible]
New Zealand	170,328	1,727,925	2,312,327	2,780,009	1,773,461	[illegible]
Australasia............	9,485,561	27,025,761	29,937,484	33,531,078	33,015,380	[illegible]

Colony.	Exports of Gold.					
	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-96.	1851-96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...........	12,211,831	25,804,687	18,557,134	18,296,059	18,332,643	[illegible]
Victoria	90,691,591	74,430,857	48,091,469	30,593,232	18,108,898	[illegible]
Queensland	......	2,135,600	10,813,959	14,072,950	13,734,796	[illegible]
South Australia	2,991,967	486,516	521,893	1,245,793	1,848,448	[illegible]
Western Australia	......	38,896	1,710	179,334	3,518,658	[illegible]
Tasmania	843,029	25,245	567,486	1,442,712	1,131,885	[illegible]
New Zealand...............	219,309	22,022,747	16,527,470	10,417,390	6,336,865	[illegible]
Australasia............	106,957,727	124,944,548	95,081,121	76,247,470	63,012,193	[illegible]

The excess of exports of gold for each colony during each of the periods shown was as follows :—

Colony.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-96.	1851-96.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...........	8,337,067	13,656,650	5,248,994	277,509	1,840,597	[illegible]
Victoria	86,342,134	62,609,042	37,222,632	23,106,371	10,008,007	[illegible]
Queensland	....	1,768,575	9,430,137	11,540,245	11,625,224	[illegible]
South Australia	1,900,955	*395,633	*1,100,309	*673,548	*32,339	[illegible]
Western Australia	....	19,586	*38,000	*44,320	1,177,385	[illegible]
Tasmania	843,029	*34,255	165,040	872,754	814,535	[illegible]
New Zealand...............	48,981	20,294,822	14,215,143	7,637,381	4,563,404	[illegible]
Total excess of exports..	97,472,166	97,918,787	65,143,637	42,716,392	29,996,813	[illegible]
Average per annum	9,747,217	9,791,879	6,514,364	4,271,639	4,999,469	[illegible]

* Excess of Imports.

BANKING.

The laws relating to banks and banking at present in force are susceptible of great improvement, and the recent failure of many monetary institutions posing as banks has directed attention to the strong necessity for entirely revising the conditions under which deposits may be taken from the general public. All institutions transacting the business of banking are required by law to furnish quarterly statements of their assets and liabilities in a specified form, and from these statements and periodic balance-sheets the tables in this chapter have been compiled. e returns furnished by the banks, though in compliance with the of the colony, are by no means satisfactory, being quite unsuited the modern methods of transacting banking business; nor can they be en without question as indicating the stability or otherwise of the nks. As a rule, nothing can be elicited beyond what is shown in the lance-sheets. These are published half-yearly, with the exception of ose of two banks which are issued annually. No uniformity is served as regards the dates of closing the balance-sheets, and the odes of presentation are equally diverse. Important items which ought be specifically stated are lumped with accounts of minor import, d, as a rule, current accounts are blended with other accounts, instead being separately shown. The value of the information vouchsafed the public is illustrated by the fact that it was impossible to obtain, om the publications of several institutions suspending payment during 93, the amount of their liabilities.

There are thirteen banks of issue operating in New South Wales, ur of which have their head offices in Sydney, two in Melbourne, two Queensland, one in New Zealand, and four in London. Of the four al banks, three have branches outside New South Wales, and the urth confines its operations within the limits of the colony. Two the local banks—the Bank of New South Wales and the City Bank of dney—carry on their business under the provisions of special Acts incorporation, and the liability attached to the shareholder is limited the Acts to the amount subscribed for and an additional amount ual thereto; the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited) d the Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited) are registered as nited companies. The following appears to have been the extent of the bility of shareholders of banks trading in New South Wales at the ddle of 1897:—

Bank.	Reserve or Capital Liability on ordinary shares when calls have been met.
	£
Bank of New South Wales	1,950,000
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited)	1,000,000
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	391,505
City Bank of Sydney	540,000
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited)	Nil.
National Bank of Australasia (Limited)	750,000
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	320,000
Bank of North Queensland (Limited)	250,000
Bank of New Zealand	500,000
Bank of Australasia	1,600,000
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	3,000,000
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	*750,000
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	539,863

* Includes £6,825 prepaid in respect of Reserve Liability.

CAPITAL RESOURCES OF BANKS.

The total ca[illegible]ital and reserves (including balances of Profit and Loss account) of banks trading in New South Wales about the middle of 1897 amounted to £22,976,734, but of this amount only £12,999,025 was employed in the colony. The following is a statement of the capital paid up, distinguishing ordinary from preferential capital, and of the amount of reserves held by each bank at the date of balancing:—

Bank.	Date of balance-sheet.	Capital paid up.			Reserve Fund.
		Ordinary.	Preferential.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£
Bank of New S[illegible] Wales	Sept., 1897	1,950,000	Nil	1,950,000	1,192,500
Commercial Ba[illegible] Co. of Sydney (Ltd.)	June, 1897	1,000,000	Nil	1,000,000	1,011,000
Australian Joi[illegible] Bank (L[illegible]	[illegible]	1,166,578	Nil	1,166,578	12,000
City Bank of Sydn[illegible]	[illegible]	400,000	Nil	400,000	106,244
Commercial Bank [illegible]	[illegible]	825,211	2,117,070	2,942,281	†Nil
National Bank of Aus[illegible]	[illegible]	1,704,769	305,780	2,010,549	Nil
Queensland National [illegible]	[illegible]	*453,886	Nil	453,886	Nil
Bank of North Queens[illegible]	[illegible]	200,000	Nil	200,000	Nil
Bank of New Zealand	[illegible]	244,141	2,500,000	2,744,141	23,474
Bank of Australa[illegible]	[illegible]	1,600,000	Nil	1,600,000	800,000
Union Bank of A[illegible]	[illegible]	1,500,000	Nil	1,500,000	‡1,000,000
London Bank of [illegible]	[illegible]	§1,246,915	171,930	1,418,845	Nil
English, Scottis[illegible] (Limited).	[illegible]	970,988	Nil	970,988	Nil

* £480,000 written off since I[illegible]ssets trust special reserve account amounts to £53,000. ‡ Includes £250,[illegible]t. § Includes £6,825 prepaid in respect of reserve liability.

The preceding table shows [illegible] account at date of balancing, but most of the banks had ma[illegible] their shareholders which will increase their paid-up capital. [illegible]unt of these calls and the total working capital that will be available when they are met are shown in the following table:—

Bank.	Capital called and being called up.		
	Capital paid up.	Amount of Calls to be paid on ordinary shares.	Total Working Capital.
	£	£	£
Bank of New South Wales	1,950,000	Nil	1,950,000
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney (Limited)	1,000,000	Nil	1,000,000
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	1,166,578	7,937	1,174,515
City Bank of Sydney	400,000	Nil	400,000
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited)	2,942,281	896,289	3,838,570
National Bank of Australasia (Limited)	2,010,549	45,231	2,055,780
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	453,886	26,114	480,000
Bank of North Queensland (Limited)	200,000	Nil	200,000
Bank of New Zealand	2,744,141	255,859	3,000,000
Bank of Australasia	1,600,000	Nil	1,600,000
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	1,500,000	Nil	1,500,000
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	1,418,845	3,085	1,421,930
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	970,988	764	971,752

The calls being made, as shown in the table just given, represent a total of £1,235,279, and of this amount £7,937 is payable in Sydney, £941,520 in Melbourne, £26,114 in Brisbane, £255,859 in New Zealand, and £3,849 in London. The paid-up capital of banks operating in New South Wales has very largely increased during the twenty-two years, viz., from £7,930,000 in 1875 to £18,357,268 in hese figures have no reference to the capital actually employed in business of the banks, as will be seen from a subsequent table ing the excess of assets over liabilities in New South Wales, and ere inserted only for the purpose of facilitating comparisons which inevitably arise when the question of the liabilities of banks is considered :—

Year.	Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Year.	Banks.	Paid-up Capital.
	No.	£		No.	£
1875	10	7,930,000	1893	13	15,129,749
1880	11	9,531,212	1894	13	16,743,737
1885	14	10,512,300	1895	13	19,306,350
1890	17	13,929,326	1896	13	19,531,430
1891	16	13,526,136	1897	13	18,357,268
1892	14	12,384,637			

LOCAL BUSINESS OF BANKS.

e banks are required by the Act of Council 4 Victoria No. 13, d in the year 1840, to make quarterly statements of their business prescribed form; but these statements are not all made on the lines, and it is necessary, therefore, to make certain adjustments der to put the figures on a comparative basis. The alterations st in the exclusion from the assets of the balances due by branches gencies outside New South Wales to the head office in Sydney. ollowing shows the assets and liabilities, and the surplus assets of nks, at intervals from 1860 onwards; the surplus assets may be as representing the amount provided by the banks from their own rces. The figures relating to 1897 in this and subsequent tables to the quarter ended 30th September; for the preceding years refer to the last quarter :—

Year.	Assets within the Colony.	Liabilities within the Colony.	Surplus Assets (Capital and Reserves used in local business).
	£	£	£
1860	8,053,463	6,480,642	1,572,821
1865	9,193,540	6,962,315	2,231,225
1870	9,863,071	7,198,680	2,664,391
1875	15,545,507	15,056,485	489,022
1880	21,658,317	19,485,862	2,172,455
1885	37,737,869	29,687,296	8,050,573
1890	50,751,647	37,248,937	13,502,710
1891	51,934,372	37,589,764	14,344,608
1892	51,665,479	37,171,380	14,494,099
1893	48,794,036	34,102,172	14,691,864
1894	47,195,214	31,263,120	15,932,094
1895	45,622,329	32,037,052	13,585,277
1896	44,527,828	31,254,776	13,273,052
1897	43,855,421	30,856,326	12,999,095

If the table just given be compared with the previous one, showing the paid-up capital of the various banks doing business in the colony, it will be seen that the general tendency has been for the banks to increase the proportion of their own capital employed in the colony, although the last three years show a slight movement in the opposite direction. Thus in 1875 the paid-up capital of the banks was £7,930,000, and their reserves at the same date were £2,496,457, making a total of £10,426,457 available from their own resources, while their surplus assets amounted to only £489,022; ten years later, when the capital stood at £10,512,300, and the reserves at £5,421,998, or together £15,934,298, the surplus assets were returned at £8,050,573; and in 1890 the capital was £13,929,326, and the reserves £7,832,047, making a total of £21,761, [illegible] s assets reached the very considerable proportion of [illegible] September, 1897, however, the capital and reserves of [illegible] ks now open showed a total of £22,535,336, and the e [illegible] ne local business amounted to £12,999,095.

The banking returns do [illegible] f any useful deductions being made from them, as the [illegible] both of assets and liabilities, required by the Schedule [illegible] bsolete; thus, under the term deposits not bearing interest, [illegible] ks are accustomed to return interest accrued and all deb [illegible] them other than deposits at interest, notes, and bills, the re [illegible] that in this respect the returns are misleading. It unfortuna [illegible] s, moreover, that there are no means of correcting the figu [illegible] the over-statement is considerable will appear from the fact that the census returns showed deposits not bearing interest as £7,828,906, as compared with a total in the quarterly statements of £9,363,727.

The assets, which naturally form the most interesting feature of a bank's returns, show coin and bullion separately, but 95 per cent. of the other assets are marshalled together under the term "notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank," and the lines on which business is conducted are therefore entirely hidden from sight. The following statement of liabilities for the past eight years refers to local business only :—

Year.	Banks.	Notes in circulation.	Bills in circulation.	Deposits.			Balances due to other Banks.	Total Liabilities.
				Not bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Total.		
	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1890	16	1,557,805	127,442	10,064,518	25,395,600	35,460,118	103,572	[illegible]
1891	15	1,674,049	146,202	9,188,873	26,470,817	35,659,690	109,823	[illegible]
1892	14	1,439,872	104,223	9,207,109	26,357,083	35,564,192	63,063	[illegible]
1893	13	1,804,531	75,086	8,557,840	23,584,119	32,141,959	80,596	[illegible]
1894	13	1,235,989	146,911	9,412,761	20,380,032	29,792,793	87,427	[illegible]
1895	13	1,223,864	117,327	10,222,437	20,406,822	30,629,259	66,602	[illegible]
1896	13	1,237,971	111,889	10,707,611	19,128,305	29,835,916	69,000	[illegible]
1897	13	1,137,940	102,807	10,499,140	19,066,295	29,565,435	50,144	[illegible]

assets for the same period were as given in the following table:—

Banks.	Coin.	Bullion.	Legal Tender Notes.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills discounted, and all other debts due to the Banks.	Notes and Bills of other Banks, and Queensland Treasury Notes.	Balances due from other Banks.	Total Assets.
No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
16	5,619,111	87,659	....	1,644,179	43,009,550	287,568	103,571	50,751,647
15	4,717,659	79,768	....	1,692,940	45,068,914	265,268	109,823	51,934,372
14	5,217,371	95,894	....	1,801,590	44,135,729	227,795	187,101	51,665,479
13	5,877,891	95,386	148,467	1,918,196	40,024,354	429,620	300,122	48,794,036
13	7,330,005	100,525	....	1,938,321	37,378,947	214,503	232,913	47,196,214
13	7,364,659	151,619	....	1,919,017	35,707,153	222,731	257,150	45,622,329
13	6,760,851	187,845	....	1,914,483	35,116,696	223,487	324,466	44,527,828
13	5,704,800	223,871	....	1,817,227	35,644,565	193,707	271,251	43,855,421

METALLIC RESERVES OF BANKS.

e proportion of metallic reserves which banking institutions must ually keep in stock is not fixed by any enactment. Compared the total liabilities, and with deposits at call and note circulation, uantity of coin and bullion has varied very considerably from year ar, as the following statement shows; but prior to 1892 the proon of gold to circulation and deposits at call rarely reached 50 per and the proportion to total liabilities varied between 13 and 26 ent. The approach of the crisis of 1893 was foreseen, or at all s most institutions strengthened their reserves in anticipation of rain, while since the crisis all the banks have accumulated gold, t their stock of coin and bullion in the September quarter of 1897 ged £5,928,671—that is to say, over five times the note circulaand over one-half of the total liabilities at call. There can be ubt that the present gold accumulations of the banks are greatly in s of ordinary business requirements, and are maintained solely as a ution against a revival of the unsettled conditions which marked ear 1893:—

ar.	Coin.	Bullion.	Total.	Proportion of Metallic Reserves— To total Liabilities.	Proportion of Metallic Reserves— To deposits at call and note circulation.
	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.
0	1,578,424	90,052	1,668,476	25·7	*
5	1,328,504	125,554	1,454,058	20·9	*
70	1,291,177	86,744	1,377,921	19·1	*
75	2,317,600	104,947	2,422,547	16·1	40·4
0	3,488,554	75,008	3,563,562	18·3	49·5
5	4,027,055	76,260	4,103,315	13·8	39·2
0	5,619,111	87,659	5,706,770	15·3	49·1
1	4,717,659	79,768	4,797,427	12·8	44·2
2	5,217,371	95,894	5,313,265	14·4	57·4
3	5,877,891	95,386	5,973,277	17·5	57·7
4	7,330,005	100,525	7,430,530	23·8	69·8
5	7,364,659	151,619	7,516,278	23·5	65·7
6	6,760,851	187,845	6,948,696	22·2	58·2
7	5,704,800	223,871	5,928,671	19·2	51·2

* Amount of deposits at call unobtainable.

Advances by Banks.

Under the head of advances are included bills and promissory n discounted, cash credits, and miscellaneous debts. The bulk of adva made are secured by the mortgage of real estate or by the depositin deeds over which the lending institution acquires a lien; the discoun of trade bills does not amount to more than 14 per cent of the t cash credits and overdrafts. The banking returns are in such a defec form that an account of the nature of advances made, and the clas security advanced against, cannot be given. The most interest summary that can be made is that which the following table supplies

Year.	Advances.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.	Amount of Advances per Inhabitant.
	£	per cent.	£ s. d.
1860	5,78	111·9	16 17 6
1865	7,10	121·8	17 15 0
1870	7,8	127·9	15 18 11
1875	12	91·4	21 17 1
1880	[illegible]	96·2	23 12 4
1885	[illegible]	117·4	33 16 1
1890	[illegible]	121·3	39 0 8
1891	[illegible]	126·4	39 8 3
1892	[illegible]	124·1	37 7 2
1893	[illegible]	124·5	33 0 4
1894	[illegible]	125·4	30 4 2
1895	35,707,153	116·6	27 18 10
1896	35,116,696	117·7	27 1 3
1897	35,644,565	120·6	27 3 7

The useful purpose which the banking system serves may be read realised from the foregoing statement. The period extending from 1 right on to 1885 was, on the whole, one of trade prosperity, and throu out those years the ratio of advances to deposits ranged between 91 a 117 per cent. Since 1885 New South Wales, in common with t other colonies, has suffered more or less from depression, and the ra of advances to deposits has stood considerably higher, viz., from 113 126 per cent.

Deposits in Banks.

The total amount of money deposited with the thirteen banks o ating in New South Wales in the middle of 1897 was approxim £105,357,643, and of this sum £29,565,435 was received locally. excess of the total over local deposits was employed in the countries to which the banks' business extended, some of used in New South Wales, but from the very nature of the

the banks it is not possible to do more than make a surmise as to
amount so used. Dealing only with local deposits, the following
tement shows the average amount of money deposited at various
iods commencing with 1860; the distinction between interest-bearing
osits and those at call was first made in 1875 :—

Year.	Deposits bearing Interest.	Deposits not bearing Interest.	Total Deposits.
	£	£	£
1860	....	....	5,164,011
1865	....	....	5,827,098
1870	....	....	6,107,999
1875	8,775,882	4,875,010	13,650,892
1880	11,948,383	5,934,641	17,883,024
1885	18,038,497	8,670,889	26,709,386
1890	25,395,600	10,064,518	35,460,118
1891	26,470,817	9,188,873	35,659,690
1892	26,357,083	9,207,109	35,564,192
1893	23,584,119	8,557,840	32,141,959
1894	20,380,032	9,412,761	29,792,793
1895	20,406,822	10,222,437	30,629,259
1896	19,128,305	10,707,611	29,835,916
1897	19,066,295	10,499,140	29,565,435

The deposits reached their highest level in 1891, when there was
rusted to the banks a total of £35,659,690; since the date men-
ied deposits to the extent of over five millions have been withdrawn,
reduction being entirely in interest-bearing deposits, which were very
gely withdrawn in 1893 at the time of the bank crisis, and during
succeeding year. The withdrawals in 1894 were probably due to a
bination of circumstances. Previous stoppages of payments had
le many timorous depositors withdraw their fixed deposits on
turity, and place the money in the savings banks, as is evidenced by
fact that the New South Wales and Post Office Savings Banks
reased their deposits by over one million and a half from 1892 to
4; while the capital called up by the banks themselves absorbed a
siderable sum which would otherwise have remained on deposit. To
se two causes which tended to decrease the money on deposit with
banks may be added a third—the withdrawal of money for hoarding.
t this last must have been considerable may be argued from the fact

that the stock of gold in private hands was increased during 18 £1,003,473, and in 1894 by £321,793, while the gold neede circulation probably decreased during those years. Since 1894 has been a tendency to withdraw money from fixed deposit and to it at current account. The current accounts have increased by one million since 1894, while the total deposits show a decrease of £200,000 since that period.

The interest offering for fixed deposits has now fallen to 3 per for sums deposited for twelve months; for six months' deposits interest allowed is at the rate of 1½ per cent. The practice of allo interest on money fixed for terms of less than six months was di tinued in May, 1894. The rates quoted, which were fixed on the March, 1896, are much th [illegible] that have been offered since b were first opened for business [illegible] money equal to their requiremen freely offered. The follow [illegible] statement of the average rate twelve months' deposits f [illegible] onwards. The figures of the four years do not include interes payable on deferred deposits reconstructed banks :—

Year.	Bank Interest on Deposits for twelve months.	Year.	Bank Interest on Deposits for twelve months.
	per cent.		per cent.
1860	5	1891	4¾
1865	6	1892	5
1870	5	1893	4½
1875	5¼	1894	4¼
1880	5	1895	3½
1885	5	1896	3
1890	4½		

Under normal conditions the annual rate of interest paid on f deposits is uniform for all banks; but some of the institutions w have undergone reconstruction have not been in a position to re the rates on a large proportion of the deposits, so that they are pa the ordinary market rate of 3 per cent. on deposits received s reconstruction, while rates varying from 3 to 4½ per cent. are b paid on the extended deposits. The reconstructed banks have powe release their extended deposits at any time on giving the necessary n of their intention to do so, and the deposits when renewed are b accepted at the ordinary or reduced rate.

The liability to depositors of the reconstructed banks at the d of suspension was £58,914,585; but up to the middle of 1 £29,905,475 of the deposits had been liquidated, £2,594,780 tu into preferential share capital, and £6,514,651 into inscribed pe petual stocks or debentures, apart from £750,000 inscribed stock by the Union Bank, so that there were then deposits to th £19,899,679 awaiting release. The complete statement of nts of the thirteen banks operating at the middle of 1897 was as n below :—

Banks.	Deposits.					
	Capitalised (Preferential Capital).	Invested in bank stocks.	Extended deposits.	Fixed at ordinary rates.	At current account.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
f New South Wales	....	....	......	10,570,120	8,351,533	18,921,653
ercial Banking Co. of Sydney d.)	....	....	......	5,978,239	3,378,008	9,356,247
lian Joint Stock Bank (Ltd.).	....	367,888	5,898,055	120,399	747,832	7,134,174
ank of Sydney	....	....	......	687,185	405,917	1,093,102
ercial Bank of Australia (Ltd.)	2,117,070	....	5,185,255	404,385	1,517,153	9,223,863
al Bank of Australasia (Ltd.)	305,780	....	2,401,000	1,285,948	2,692,594	6,685,322
land National Bank (Ltd.)..	....	3,117,369	1,833,326	366,130	1,677,648	6,994,473
f North Queensland (Ltd.) ..	....	50,000	......	104,127	106,002	260,129
f New Zealand	....	....	......	3,618,287	4,474,656	8,092,943
f Australasia	....	....	......	7,183,303	5,597,872	12,781,175
Bank of Australia (Ltd.)....	....	750,000	......	7,556,827	6,850,896	15,157,723
n Bank of Australia (Ltd.) ..	171,930	....	3,716,087	539,940	958,196	5,386,153
h, Scottish, and Australian nk (Ltd.)	....	2,979,394	865,956	298,872	829,741	4,973,963
Total	2,594,780	7,264,651	19,899,679	38,713,762	37,588,048	96,060,920

me of the reconstructed banks accept their own deposit receipts at value in liquidation of debts owing to them, and in payment of where debtors are unable to pay cash. Holders of negotiable sits, however, wishing to dispose in open market are obliged to ot prices below the face value, as will be seen in the subjoined table h gives the rates offered for deposits of four banks. Towards close of 1895 the Bank of North Queensland and the Commercial king Company of Sydney released the balance of their locked-up sits. The prices here quoted are those ruling at the beginning ly, 1897 :—

Bank.	Buying Price.		
	£	s.	d.
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Ltd.)—			
Repayable to 1907	0	15	3
Do after 1907..	0	9	6
Commercial Bank of Australia (Ltd.)—			
Repayable to 1906	0	17	6
Do 1916, or sooner if possible	0	15	10
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Ltd.)—			
Perpetual	0	13	6
Repayable to 1904	0	18	6
Others	0	14	9
Interminable	0	11	6
National Bank of Australasia (Ltd.)	1	0	0

The overd aft and discount rates have been almost stationary du the last ten years, notwithstanding that the interest payable for m placed on fixed deposit has during the same period fallen from 5 per cent. Under ordinary circumstances, discount and overdraft r would have moved down with the interest rates paid to depositors; it is evident from a consideration of the profit and loss accounts of various institutions that the banks are not in a position to make appreciable reduction in the discount rates, notwithstanding the ea terms upon which they themselves can borrow.

The r for overdrafts and discounts for the ten years ended 1 were as r :—

Year.		Discount Rates.	
		Bills at 3 months.	Bills over 3 months.
	…t.	per cent.	per cent.
18	9	6 to 8	7 to 9
18	)	6 ,, 7	7 ,, 8
		7	8
	9	7	8
	9	7	8
	9	7	8
	8½ to 9	7	8
	7 ,, 9	6½ to 7	7 to 8
1895	7 ,, 8	6 ,, 6½	7
1896	6 ,, 7½	6 ,, 6½	7 to 8

The bank exchange rate on London, at 60 days' sight, averages ab 1 per cent., but is subject to a good deal of fluctuation. During t height of the bank panic in May, 1893, it was 3½ per cent., the ba at that date requiring all their available assets for other purposes. T rates for the ten years ended 1896 were :—

Year.	Exchange rate on London at 60 days sight.	
	Buying.	Selling.
	per cent.	per cent.
1887	98½ to 100	100 to 100¾
1888	99½ ,, 100⅜	100¼ ,, 100⅞
1889	99½ ,, 100	100½ ,, 100⅞
1890	99⅜ ,, 100	100⅝ 101¾
1891	99⅛ ,, 100	100⅛ 100⅞
1892	99⅜ ,, 99⅞	100½ 100⅝
1893	97 ,, 99¾	100½ 100¾
1894	99½ ,, 99⅞	100½ ,, 100¾
1895	99½ ,, 99¾	100⅝ ,, 100¾
1896	99½ ,, 99¾	100½ ,, 100¾

BANKS' EXCHANGE SETTLEMENT.

The Banks' Exchange Settlement Office, which was established in dney on the 18th January, 1894, is not a clearing-house in the cepted term, as the exchanges are still effected daily at the banks by rks of each institution; but the results of the daily operations are tified to the Secretary of the Banks' Exchange Settlement, who tablishes the daily credit of each bank with the pool. The "Pool" is aced in the hands of three trustees, and consists of £700,000 in gold, iich is deposited in the vaults of three of the banks, and cannot be culated or disturbed. The contributions to the "Pool" are according the volume of the operations of each bank. The Secretary notifies ch bank daily of the amount of its credit with the "Pool," and no nk is permitted to allow its balance to continue below 25 per cent. of e fixed contribution. In the event of its credit reaching this margin, e bank is required to make up its deficiency with gold; this payment, wever, is not made to the pool, but to such other banks as may happen have at their credit with the pool a larger sum than is required by the reement. This arrangement enables the £700,000 comprising the ol to remain intact.

The volume of the exchanges monthly during 1896 is shown in the lowing table:—

Period.	Amount of Exchanges.	Period.	Amount of Exchanges.
	£		£
r weeks ending 27 Jan., 1896 ..	9,469,324	Four weeks ending 7 Sept., 1896..	9,153,714
„ 24 Feb., „ ..	9,096,078	„ 5 Oct., „ ..	8,487,800
„ 23 Mar., „ ..	7,534,848	„ 2 Nov., „ ..	9,991,871
„ 20 April, „ ..	8,583,651	„ 30 Nov., „ ..	10,000,911
„ 18 May, „ ..	8,573,676	Five weeks ending 31 Dec., „ ..	11,785,931
„ 15 June, „ ..	7,938,469		
„ 13 July, „ ..	9,267,812	Total ....£	117,718,862
„ 10 Aug., „ ..	7,784,777		

NOTE CIRCULATION OF BANKS.

The issue of paper money is not at present limited by an enactment, e law regulating note issue having lapsed on the 9th October, 1895. nder the Stamp Duties' Act of 1880 a note tax of 2 per cent. is posed on the average circulation of each bank within the colony; s tax on the present issue yields a return of between £30,000 and 0,000 per annum. The note circulation of banking companies has en declining, not only as compared with the population, but in actual lume. In 1885 there was an average of £1,793,686, representing out £1 18s. 8d. per inhabitant; while in 1897 the total had fallen to ,137,940, and the average per inhabitant to 17s. 4d. In 1860 the te circulation was as much as £2 17s. 5d. per head, and in 1882,

£2 1s. 10d. The following is a statement of the average note issue
bills in circulation at intervals since 1860 :—

Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Total.	Average per Inhabitant.
	£	£	£	£
1860	949,849	62,505	1,012,354	2·95
1865	729,076	67,875	796,951	1·99
1870	695,366	50,515	745,881	1·52
1875	1,114,411	37,008	1,151,419	1·97
1880	1,260,772	51,698	1,312,470	1·80
1885	1,793,686	59,327	1,853,013	2·00
1890	1,557,805	127,442	1,685,247	1·53
1891	1,674,049	146,202	1,820,251	1·59
1892	1,439,872	104,223	1,544,095	1·30
1893	1,804,531	75,086	1,879,617	1·55
1894	1,235,989	146,911	1,382,900	1·12
1895	1,223,864	117,327	1,341,191	1·05
1896	1,237,971	111,889	1,349,860	1·04
1897	1,137,940	102,807	1,240,747	0·95

The law does not require any special reserve to be maintained agai
bank notes, but, as already pointed out, the note issue is many ti
covered by the reserves ; thus in September, 1897, the note issue st
at £1,137,940, while the gold in hand was £5,928,671.

The lowest value for which notes are issued is one pound, and
bulk of the issue is of this denomination. During the operatio
the Bank Notes' Act of 1893, under which the issues of certain ba
(twelve in number) were a first charge on their assets, and were l
tender throughout the colony at all places except the head office
the banks issuing, there was a special tax of 2½ per cent. on
average monthly issue. This tax was in substitution of the stamp
of 2 per cent., and ceased with the lapse of the Act in October, 18

Working Expenses and Profits.

The published balance-sheets of banks as a rule give very me
information of the results of their working, and with one excep
it is impossible to ascertain the amount of the gross profits.
the matter of management expenses equal reticence is observed,
one bank whose head office is in the colony giving this informatio

reholders. The net profits are therefore the only data on which parative statement can be based, and the ratio of such to paid-up l and reserves, and to the banks' trading and total assets, will be in the subjoined statement:—

Bank.	Net Profits for twelve months, 1896-7.	Ratio of Net Profits to—		
		Paid-up Capital and Reserves.	Total Trading Assets.	Total Assets of all kinds.
	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	177,361	5·60	0·72	0·71
cial Banking Co. of Sydney (Limited)	80,185	3·96	0·68	0·65
an Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	*101,706	....	....	....
ık of Sydney	16,119	3·17	1·05	0·97
cial Bank of Australia (Limited)	94,165	3·20	0·95	0·90
Bank of Australasia (Limited)	36,173	1·77	0·46	0·41
ınd National Bank (Limited)	*27,034	....	....	....
North Queensland (Limited)	3,720	1·78	0·72	0·70
New Zealand	56,891	2·03	0·46	0·42
Australasia	85,776	3·55	0·48	0·47
ank of Australia (Limited)	96,415	3·82	0·46	0·44
Bank of Australia (Limited)	*4,627	....	....	....
Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	*27,950	....	....	....

* Loss.

mately connected with the question of profits is that of working ses, and it must be confessed that the cost of working banking tions in Australasia is undoubtedly large. This is partly due to de and sparsely populated area over which operations are carried d partly to the class of business in which banks are engaged. The ing is a statement of the cost of management of the several banks rated:—

Bank.	Expenses of Management for twelve months, 1896-7.	
	Total.	Ratio to bank's resources (Paid-up Capital, Reserves, Deposits, and Note Circulation).
	£	per cent.
New South Wales	Not available.	
cial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited)		
an Joint Stock Bank (Limited)		
k of Sydney		
cial Bank of Australia (Limited)	87,303	1·82
Bank of Australasia (Limited)	111,512	1·37
ınd National Bank (Limited)	70,913	0·81
North Queensland (Limited)	9,731	2·09
New Zealand	Not available.	
Australasia	209,283	1·28
ank of Australia (Limited)	221,295	1·14
Bank of Australia (Limited)	72,109	1·06
Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	84,457	1·41

It will be observed that the expenses of working the four banks and the Bank of New Zealand are not shown in the state just given. These banks do not disclose even to their shareho the details of their business, so that the reference to the co banking business is seriously incomplete; but taking such i as are enumerated as a guide to the whole of the institut the total expenses of management of the thirteen banks which offices in the colony may be set down for the year 1896- £1,521,900.

The following statement may be taken as approximately correct

Total trading assets	£137,876,01
Capital and reserves	22,744,67
Gross earnings, less reserve for bad and doubtful debts, and rebate on bills current	4,293,15
Gross expenditure, including interest	3,807,65
Net earnings	485,50

Compared with the total assets, the net earnings represent 0·33 cent., and compared with the banks' own resources, *i.e.*, capital reserved profits, 2·13 per cent. The gross expenditure set down al may be divided into expenses of management, £1,521,900, and inte £2,286,750; these together amount to 88·7 per cent. of the g earnings, the management expenses being 35·4 per cent., and interest 53·3 per cent. It would therefore appear that for every £ net earnings, £3 2s. 8d. are spent in management expenses, £4 14s. 3d. in interest. The cost of working banking institution Australia is undoubtedly very large; but this class of business is ev where expensive, and an analysis of the balance-sheets of over hundred British joint stock banks shows that the expenses of mai ment amount to nearly 16s. for every £1 of net earnings.

In order that a comparison may be made with the results obta before the financial crisis, the following figures for the year 1892 given :—

Total trading assets	£155,582,83
Capital and reserves	19,084,14
Gross earnings, less reserve for bad and doubtful debts	7,638,4[illegible]
Gross expenditure, including interest	6,068,[illegible]
Net earnings	1,5[illegible]

The net earnings equal 1·01 per cent. of total assets, cent. of capital and reserves.

The following table affords a comparison of the working of New South Wales banks with the joint stock banks in the United Kingdom. The figures relate to the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Banks.	No. of Banks	Capital and Reserves.			Total Earnings.	Deposits.	
		Paid-up Capital.	Reserves and Undivided Profits.	Total.		Total.	Percentage of Earnings to Deposits.
		£	£	£	£	£	
English	99	59,881,000	33,220,000	93,101,000	6,169,000	552,300,000	1·12
Scotch......	10	9,302,000	7,027,000	16,329,000	1,305,000	95,700,000	1·36
Irish	9	7,109,000	3,655,000	10,764,000	854,000	45,500,000	1·88
N. S. Wales..	13	18,357,268	4,377,401	22,734,669	485,500	29,565,400	1·63

The net profits of the banks of this colony, and the allotment of such nder the accepted heads, are given below. It will be noticed that in few instances only have the reserve funds been strengthened ; it hould be stated, however, that two institutions have increased the eserve funds by premiums paid on new shares. The particulars are s follow, the dates of the balance-sheets being shown on page 924 :—

Bank.	Balance brought forward.	Net Profits for half-year.	Total.	Half-yearly Dividend.		Amount transferred to Reserve Fund.	Amount carried forward.
				Rate per cent. per annum.	Amount.		
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Bank of New South Wales	22,502	89,462	111,964	9	87,750	7,650	16,564
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney (Ltd.).	15,138	40,119	55,257	8	40,000	Nil.	15.257
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Ltd.).	Nil.	Nil.*	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
City Bank of Sydney	8,260	8,048	16,308	4	8,000	Nil.	8,308
Commercial Bank of Australia (Ltd.).	5,940	52,529	58,469	Pref. 2 Ord. nil.	21,170	33,000†	4,299
National Bank of Australasia (Ltd.).	23,566	18,275	41,841	Pref. 5 Ord. nil.	7,644	Nil.	34,197
Queensland National Bank (Ltd.).	45,347	—25,425	19,922	Nil.	Nil.	19,922‡	Nil.
Bank of North Queensland (Ltd.).	7,365	2,004	9,369	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	9.369
Bank of New Zealand	40,084	56,891§	96,975	Pref. 3½ Ord. nil.	21,875‖	35,709¶	39,391
Bank of Australasia	12,622	45,375	57,997	5	40,000	Nil.	17,997
Union Bank of Australia (Ltd.).	24,489	37,578	62,067	5	37.500	Nil.	24,567
London Bank of Australia (Ltd.)	6,208	— 4,396**	1,812	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,812
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Ltd.).	— 6,278	—27,950§	—34,228	Nil.	Nil.	—34,228††	Nil.

* Loss on half-year's transactions of £53,506 written off old Reserve Fund. † To Assets Special eserve Account. ‡ To Contingency Account. § For twelve months. ‖ Includes three months dividend on preferential shares to 31st March, 1896. ¶ Paid to Assets Realization Board, nd amount carried forward will be paid to same Board. ** Loss on half-year's transactions of 4,396. †† To Contingent Fund.

Most of the banks have contrived to reduce their working exp during the last few years. This has been accomplished mainly by cl unprofitable branches, of which 464 have been closed during five There are seven institutions for which the expenses of managemen 1894 and 1896–7 can be stated; these banks show a reducti expenditure to the extent of nearly 7½ per cent.

The number of banks and branches open throughout New Wales in 1897 was 423, or 81 less than in 1892. This gives a p tion of one bank or branch to every 3,100 persons. In Englan proportion is one bank to 11,000 persons, and in Scotland one to 4,100.

Dividends of Banks.

No featur [illegible] was, until a few years ago, so spicuous as the [illegible] the vast changes brought abo the bank crisis o [illegible] any [illegible] erfered with the earning powe banks, and of [illegible] erating in the colony eight were no to declare a d [illegible] r o [illegible] nary share capital during the 1896–7. A comparis [illegible] ween [illegible] 92–3—that is, the year befor crisis—and the year [illegible] 7 is a [illegible] rded by the following table, w refers only to dividend [illegible] d on ordinary share capital :—

Bank.	Dividend per cent.	
	1892–3.	1896–7.
Bank of New South Wales	17½	9
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited)	25	8
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	15	Nil.
City Bank of Sydney	10	4
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited)	12½	Nil.
National Bank of Australasia (Limited)	12½	Nil.
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	10	Nil.
Bank of North Queensland (Limited)	5	Nil.
Bank of New Zealand	5	Nil.
Bank of Australasia	12½	5
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	12	5
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	8	Nil.
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	4	Nil.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The institutions classed as savings banks may be divided into kinds—those worked in conjunction with the Post Office, and, c quently, directly administered by the State; and those under tru who are nominated by the Government. The declared objects of banks are to encourage thrift in the working classes, and to prov safe investment for the funds of charitable institutions, friendly ties, and such like. The savings banks have, however, become [illegible] that all classes of the community are represented among thei

The Post Office or Government Savings Bank was est

71, and the Savings Bank of New South Wales as far back as 1832. e rate of interest in the former institution was reduced on the 1st ly, 1896, to 3 per cent. per annum. At the close of that year the bilities of the bank amounted to £4,374,216, of which £4,372,965 presented deposits, and £1,251 balance of profit and loss account. The vestments made by the Treasury on behalf of the bank were as follow:—

	£
Government Debentures	108,200
Funded Stock, 36 Vic. No. 21	296,467
,, 56 Vic. No. 1	1,000,000
1924 Stock, 58 Vic. No. 14	20,000
1925 ,, and Funded Stock, 59 Vic. No. 6	530,000
Treasury Bills, 53 Vic. No. 9	809,000
,, 59 Vic. No. 22	1,024,700
Cash at credit of Trust Account	401,923
,, in hands of Controller	27,203
Interest due on Investments and on uninvested Funds, at 3 per cent.	66,723
Total	£4,374,216

The Savings Bank of New South Wales is administered by a managing ustee and nine ordinary trustees. Unlike the Post Office Savings nk, the funds of this institution are applied to investments of a general ture, such as mortgages, Government and municipal securities, and posits with banks of issue and the Treasury. The amount invested der each head, including interest accrued, at the close of 1896, and e average rate of interest obtained, were as follow:—

How invested.	Amount.	Average Rate of Interest charged.
	£	per cent.
Mortgages	1,063,915	5·47
Government and Municipal Securities	60,550	5·12
Treasury Bills	*...........	4·25
Fixed Deposits:—		
Banks of Issue	902,813	4·13
Treasury	2,195,270	3·44
Uninvested	196,391	......
Total	4,418,939	4·27

* The Bills were paid off during the month of December.

The reserve fund, depreciation account, and profit and loss account, on the 31st December, 1896, amounted to £268,796. According to the published statements of this institution, it could pay £1 1s. 3½d. for every £1 liability. The classification of the deposits on the 1st January, 1897, was as follows:—

Classification.	Depositors.	Deposits.	Average per Depositor.
	No.	£	£ s. d.
£20 and under	39,571	173,832	4 7 10
Over £20 and under £50	9,925	320,938	32 6 9
£50 and under £100	7,596	538,556	70 18 1
£100 ,, £200	8,733	1,211,728	138 15 1
£200 ,, £300	7,026	1,492,220	212 7 9
£300 and upwards	371	412,384	1,111 10 11
Total	73,222	4,149,658	56 13 5

During 1896 interest was allowed in the New South Wales Savings Bank at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on accounts closed during the year. On accounts current at the close of a year a higher rate is allowed; this latter is not fixed, but 4 per cent. was paid for the year 1896. Both in the Post Office Savings Bank and in the New South Wales Savings Bank sums of 1s. and any multiple of that amount may be deposited; but with the exception of the funds of charitable institutions and friendly societies, deposits exceeding £200 do not bear interest on such excess. The bulk of the deposits over £200 probably belong to institutions of the classes mentioned.

During the year 1896 there was an increase of 10,806 in the number of depositors in the savings banks, and of £449,048 in the amount of the deposits. This increase was partly due to the extension of the Post Office system, under which there was an addition of 8,683 depositors and £251,265 in deposits, and partly to the withdrawal of money from the ordinary banks of issue. By comparing the annual figures giving the amount deposited per inhabitant, the increase will be found to be proportionately greater than that of the population. The number of depositors at the close of the last three years and the amount to their credit were as follow:—

Banks.	1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Depositors	Deposits.	Depositors	Deposits.	Depositors	Deposits.
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
Savings Bank of New South Wales	67,512	3,583,075	71,099	3,951,875	73,222	4,149,658
Post Office Banks	122,795	3,633,925	131,703	4,121,700	140,386	4,372,965
Total	190,307	7,217,000	202,802	8,073,575	213,608	8,522,623

REGISTERED COMPANIES.

The Land, Building, Investment, and Trading Companies established with the object of making profit and doing general business, may be registered under the Companies Act of 1874; Benefit Building, Investment, Co-operative, and Industrial Societies, worked for the mutual benefit and advantage of the subscribing members only, may be registered under the Friendly Societies' Act of 1873; and Mining Companies in which the shares carry no liability fall under the No-liability Mining Companies' Act of 1881.

The provisions of the Companies' Act are so framed that they are applicable to nearly all classes of financial institutions, very few of which are now carried on under special Acts. According to the records of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, there appeared to be about 558 companies whose registration stood good at the middle of 1897, but it is believed that in this number are included some companies which have really passed out of existence without the formal and legal steps required by the Act being taken.

Registered companies are required to furnish their shareholders with a periodical balance-sheet, according to a prescribed form, and to forward to the Registrar an annual statement showing the share register and the transactions of the capital account. Besides this, companies registered subsequent to the year 1879, receiving money on deposit within the colony, are required to furnish quarterly statements of the average assets and liabilities of their local business in the same manner as banking companies. Of the 558 companies in operation at the middle of 1897, only 19 were returned as receiving money on deposit; the remaining companies, with an exception here and there, conduct their business on the subscribed capital alone.

The registrations under the Companies' Act for the five years ended 1896 were :—

Registrations.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
New Companies registered	74	73	90	77	71
Old Companies incorporated by Act of Parliament, registered under clause 224 of the Act, for purpose of winding-up	....	4	....	....	....
Companies wound-up	80	78	57	71	55
Declarations, statements, etc., that certain Companies have been defunct	74	156	57	119	46
Amount of fees received £	1,317	1,123	1,038	1,034	899

In the number of companies shown in the above table as wound up are included several defunct companies which have been reconstructed, and in the number shown as having become defunct during the same period are included many which ceased operations in previous years without notifying the Registrar at the proper time; still, after making all necessary allowances on these points, the five years mentioned show an unusually large number of winding-up notices.

During 1890 most of the deposit, land, building, and investment companies were presumed to be in a flourishing condition. Their dividends to shareholders were very large, and the rates allowed on deposits were considerably in excess of those current in the banks of issue. As might have been expected, the high interest offered was too tempting a bait to be resisted by a section of the investing public, and large sums were placed in these institutions with the utmost confidence that they would be available when required. This confidence, unfortunately, proved to be, in many instances, unmerited. The shrinkage of land values, and the depreciation of real estate generally, put an end to all unsound institutions working on speculative lines, as well as to some other companies that were conducted on reasonable principles. In August 1891, three of these institutions suddenly suspended payment, and they were followed within a short time by others, several of which were placed in liquidation; while a considerable number of the existing institutions are now carrying on their business under the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act of 1891, which was passed to afford relief to *bona fide* institutions which, through no fault of their own, became embarrassed. This Act expired on 1st January, 1896, but Parliament extended its operations until the 1st January, 1898.

The liabilities, assets, and paid-up capital of the nineteen deposit companies, for the quarter ended September, 1897, were as follow:—

Companies.	Number.	Liabilities (exclusive of Liabilities to Shareholders).			Assets.			Paid-up Capital.
		Deposits.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Landed Property.	Other Assets.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investment	16	484,912	555,781	1,040,693	1,363,341	538,060	1,901,401	[illegible]
Trading	3	163,016	738,945	901,961	834,639	3,464,647	4,299,286	[illegible]
Total	19	647,928	1,294,726	1,942,654	2,197,980	4,002,707	6,200,687	[illegible]

The difficulties into which the deposit companies fell may for the most part be attributed to their practice of borrowing money for short periods, and locking it up for long terms. Besides this, however, many so-called building societies indulged in speculative land purchases, and having retailed the land at enhanced prices, with payments over extended periods, proceeded to divide the presumed profits among the shareholders, with a result that might easily have been foreseen, for in many cases the purchasers, after paying a few instalments toward the price, left the allotments on the hands of the companies, whose anticipated profits were therefore purely visionary, and whose dividends were really never earned, but, in many instances, were merely taken from the deposits.

BENEFIT BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETIES.

According to the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act of 1873, any number of persons may form themselves into a Benefit Building and Investment Society for the purpose of raising money by subscription to enable members to erect and purchase dwellings, etc., which must be secured to the society by mortgage until the amount of the shares has been fully paid. These institutions, as previously mentioned, are established solely for the benefit and advantage of the subscribing members, and their operations are, as a rule, confined to the subscriptions. There were, however, 11 institutions in 1896 receiving money on deposit from the general public, the aggregate amount of which was £424,292. At the close of 1896 the Benefit Building and Investment Societies which had been registered under the Friendly Societies Act numbered 130, of which only 32 were in operation at that date. Of the other institutions, some had ceased to exist through being Terminating Societies; others had become Limited Companies under the Companies Act, and consequently ceased to operate under the Friendly Societies Act; and a large number had become defunct.

Returns have been received from 29 of the 32 institutions operating. The liabilities and assets, etc., of these 29 societies for the year 1896-7 were as follow:—

Societies.	Number.	Liabilities (exclusive of Liabilities to Shareholders).			Assets.			Paid-up Capital and Contingency Funds.
		Deposits.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Advances.	Other Assets.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Starr-Bowkett	8	Nil.	4,927	4,927	69,852	3,715	73,567	57,359
Building	5	8,536	24,657	33,193	46,836	7,028	53,864	21,291
Building and Investment.	10	238,667	22,630	261,297	640,165	67,924	708,089	440,175
Land, Building, and Investment.	6	177,089	10,809	187,898	334,657	88,862	423,519	221,002
Total	29	424,292	63,023	487,315	1,091,510	167,529	1,259,039	739,827

CO-OPERATIVE TRADING AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES.

Particulars of these societies are given in the chapter of this volume dealing with Employment and Production.

NO-LIABILITY MINING COMPANIES.

Under the No-Liability Mining Companies' Act of 1881, shareholders in any mining company registered under the Act are not liable to be sued for calls or contributions; if calls are made, shares on which they are not paid within twenty-one days after the expiration of the period fixed are forfeited. Companies registered under this Act are also subject t certain provisions of the Companies' Act of 1874. The total registratio during sixt years numbered only 616; it would therefore appear tha in spite of low registration fees, the provisions of the Act are n very largely made use of. The registrations during the last seven year were as follow :—

Year.	Registrations.
1890	73
1891	76
1892	43
1893	15
1894	25
1895	37
1896	44

Of the 44 registratio 6, 9 were registered under Act 60 Vic. No. 15, passed , 396, which repealed the former Act (44 Vic. No. 23).

TOTAL DEPOSITS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

The amount of deposits at each of the last ten years in the Banks of Issue, the Sav nd the Building and Investment Companies is given in t able. The increase during the first four years was rap bsolutely, but also as compared with the increase in population; but in the course of the last four years the amount per head has fallen considerably. During the period of ten years embraced in the table the deposits increased from £34,878,769 to £39,693,955, the rate per head being £30 11s. 10d. in 1896 as compared with £34 3s. 8d. in 1887. The amount under each head on 31st December of each year was as follows :—

Year.	Deposits.						
	In Banks of Issue.	In Savings Banks.	In Building and Investment Companies.	Total.	Amount per head of Population.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.
1887	29,253,864	3,675,893	1,949,012	34,878,769	34	3	8
1888	31,917,311	4,037,675	2,442,065	38,397,051	36	10	7
1889	33,777,142	4,280,083	2,599,272	40,656,497	37	11	5
1890	35,460,118	4,730,469	3,199,554	43,390,141	38	13	6
1891	35,659,690	5,342,135	2,595,489	43,597,314	37	8	3
1892	35,564,192	5,706,081	2,082,223	43,352,496	36	4	0
1893	32,141,959	6,535,758	1,516,567	40,194,284	32	17	1
1894	29,792,793	7,217,000	1,836,540	38,846,333	31	0	10
1895	30,629,257	8,073,575	1,289,016	39,991,848	31	[illegible]	[illegible]
1896	29,835,916	8,522,623	1,335,416	39,693,955	30		

In the £1,335,416 deposits held by companies in 1896 is included £424,292 deposited in Benefit Building and Investment Societies registered under the Friendly Societies' Act. Similar information for years prior to 1894 is not available.

TRADE MARKS.

The Trade Marks Act of 1865 provides for the registration of trade marks and for the prevention of the fraudulent marking of merchandise. During the thirty-two years the Act has been in force, 6,102 trade marks, or an average of 191 per annum, have been registered, the average of the last few years being considerably in excess of that for the whole period. The more careful discrimination now exercised with regard to the designs submitted has had the effect of bringing the Act into greater favour. The registration of a trade mark does not confer any patent rights, but acts as a commercial safeguard and as an encouragement to manufacturers to produce goods of a superior quality.

The goods or manufactures which may be protected by trade marks are classified for the purposes of efficient registration into fifty main divisions; the fees, however, are the same for each class. The transactions under the Act and the fees received during each of the five years ended 1896 were as follow:—

Transactions.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Applications for trade marks.........	365	394	546	516	475
New trade marks granted	327	304	381	397	355
Trade marks transferred	19	63	94	52	26
,, refused and withdrawn	19	27	66	61	37
Amount of fees received ....£	1,103	1,071	1,430	1,450	1,389

The figures given do not wholly apply to registrations of local manufacturers, as trade marks, like patents, are unprotected in the colony if not registered locally. The registration fees are a source of income to the State, as an application for registration costs three guineas, and a transfer of a trade mark one guinea; no charges are, however, made for applications withdrawn or refused. The fees collected during 1896 amounted to £1,389, or £490 more than those received for registrations under the Companies Act.

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES.

The money order and postal note systems are worked in conjunction with the Post Office Savings Bank, the three constituting one of the sub-departments administered by the Postmaster-General. Under the

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		Drawn on New South Wales.		
	al.	Issued and paid in New South Wales.	Issued in other Countries and paid in N.S.W.	Total.
£	£	£	£	£
289,851	1,131,884	841,539	168,758	1,010,297
311,335	1,215,132	901,620	214,813	1,116,433
297,726	1,188,227	890,513	217,585	1,108,098
297,061	1,252,305	954,562	239,392	1,193,954
341,319	1,577,744	1,233,191	285,796	1,518,987
326,413	1,762,713	1,436,109	303,703	1,739,812
349,194	1,615,885	1,269,889	286,349	1,556,238
298,634	1,315,637	1,016,570	241,352	1,257,922
283,429	1,269,200	984,509	262,726	1,247,235
294,039	1,313,595	1,014,040	413,480	1,427,520

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but when full allowance is made on this score it
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New South Wales to pay a commission to those
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money order system money may be transmitted from any part of New South Wales where an office is open to any part of the civilised world. The orders are sent either direct to the place of payment or through intermediary agencies, all places within New South Wales or the neighbouring colonies being dealt with direct, while to places outside Australia the intermediary system is applied. Under the postal note system exchanges are effected between this colony and Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania; but its original object was to afford means of transmitting amounts of £1 and under to places within the colony. As regards small remittances within the colony, the money order and postal note systems cover somewhat the same ground; but as the convenience both of sender and receiver is in favour of the postal note, it is anticipated that the money order system will be almost entirely confined to business of more than £1.

The money order system was adopted in January, 1863. In that year there were 3 orders issued for every 100 persons in the colony, and the total value of the orders was £53,862; while in 1896 the number had risen to 31 per 100 inhabitants, and the total value to £1,313,595. The growth of the business has been mainly due to the extension of the sphere of operations, both locally and elsewhere, and to the greater appreciation of the system, especially by the wage-earning class of the community. Appended is a statement of the business transacted in 1896:—

Issued in New South Wales.			Drawn on New South Wales.		
Drawn on—	Number	Value.	Issued and paid in—	Number	Value.
Australasia—		£	Australasia—		£
New South Wales (Inland)	302,773	1,019,556	New South Wales (Inland)	301,817	[illegible]
Victoria	30,568	94,183	Victoria	16,025	[illegible]
Queensland	7,121	25,816	Queensland	18,129	[illegible]
South Australia	9,768	30,006	South Australia	4,692	[illegible]
Western Australia	2,734	19,417	Western Australia	35,308	[illegible]
Tasmania	17,547	23,367	Tasmania	3,560	[illegible]
New Zealand	4,196	12,534	New Zealand	10,576	[illegible]
United Kingdom and Europe	22,393	63,834	United Kingdom and Europe	12,941	[illegible]
Germany (direct)	1,038	3,078	Germany (direct)	275	[illegible]
Italy (direct)	363	2,293	Italy (direct)	12	79
Canada	157	777	Canada	208	[illegible]
United States	1,787	5,165	United States	1,019	[illegible]
India	1,069	8,012	India	230	[illegible]
Ceylon	138	632	Ceylon	59	121
Straits Settlements	6	20	Straits Settlements	46	[illegible]
Hong Kong	854	4,161	Hong Kong	67	[illegible]
Cape of Good Hope	127	661	Cape of Good Hope	2,129	[illegible]
Mauritius	38	83	Mauritius	25	[illegible]
Total issued	402,677	1,313,595	Total drawn	407,716	[illegible]

The following table covers a period of ten years, and distinguishes orders drawn on New South Wales from those drawn on other countries. It will be seen that the amount of money transmitted to countries outside New South Wales exceeded the money received in every year except 1895 and 1896. In the months of August, September, and October large numbers of shearers are at work in various parts of the colony; many of them are but temporary visitors, whose homes are in Victoria and other adjoining colonies, and during their stay in New South Wales they transmit a portion of their earnings to their families, so that the balance of exchanges, so far as Victoria is concerned, is habitually against New South Wales. There is also a considerable remittance from the colony to Great Britain and Ireland, representing aid sent to relatives. On the other hand, bread-winners belonging to New South Wales, but now seeking their fortune elsewhere, make remittances to their families who have remained behind; the principal remittances of this kind are received from Western Australia, Queensland, and the Cape of Good Hope:—

Year.	Issued in New South Wales.			Drawn on New South Wales.		
	Drawn on New South Wales.	Drawn on other Countries.	Total.	Issued and paid in New South Wales.	Issued in other Countries and paid in N.S.W.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1887	842,033	289,851	1,131,884	841,539	168,758	1,010,297
1888	903,797	311,335	1,215,132	901,620	214,813	1,116,433
1889	890,501	297,726	1,188,227	890,513	217,585	1,108,098
1890	955,244	297,061	1,252,305	954,562	239,392	1,193,954
1891	1,236,425	341,319	1,577,744	1,233,191	285,796	1,518,987
1892	1,436,300	326,413	1,762,713	1,436,109	303,703	1,739,812
1893	1,266,691	349,194	1,615,885	1,269,889	286,349	1,556,238
1894	1,017,003	298,634	1,315,637	1,016,570	241,352	1,257,922
1895	985,771	283,429	1,269,200	984,509	262,726	1,247,235
1896	1,019,556	294,039	1,313,595	1,014,040	413,480	1,427,520

The system of postal notes has naturally caused a reduction of money-order business, but when full allowance is made on this score it will be found that there has been a considerable falling off in the number and amount of transactions since 1892; the same shrinkage is visible in almost every form of mercantile activity.

It is the practice of New South Wales to pay a commission to those countries to which money is transmitted in proportion to the amount of the orders forwarded to each, the rate of commission varying from ½ to 1 per cent., and a similar allowance is made to the colony by countries doing a return business. The amounts paid and received by the col on this account during the last seven years were as follow :—

Year.	Paid.	Received.
	£	£
1890	2,759	2,644
1891	3,171	3,464
1892	2,392	2,066
1893	2,214	1,688
1894	1,890	1,445
1895	1,771	1,537
1896	1,812	2,326

Money orders drawn on places within Australasia are limited to £ the commission ranging from 6d. to 2s. for local orders, and from (to 4s. for orders on the other colonies. On Canada, Ceylon, Ind Germany, Italy, and the United States, the maximum sum for whi an order may be obtained is also £20, and the charges vary from (to 10s.; while on all other countries the limit is fixed at £10, a the commission at from 6d. to 5s. The total amount of commissi collected from the public for each of the seven years from 1890 to 18 is given below, and against this amount is placed the excess of payme over receipts shown in the preceding table :—

Year.	Commission received.	Net Payments to Other Countries.	Net Collections.
	£	£	£
1890	16,939	115	16,824
1891	19,198	*293	19,491
1892	19,309	326	18,983
1893	19,038	526	18,512
1894	15,828	445	15,383
1895	14,863	234	14,629
1896	15,232	*514	15,746

* Net receipts from other countries.

No allowance has been made for the stamp duty of 1d. charged (all orders issued in New South Wales, and of 2d. imposed on all orde of £2 and upwards paid in the colony.

Postal notes were first issued in New South Wales on the 1st tober, 1893, under the authority of a special Act of the Legislature. e transactions during 1896 were as follow :—

Denomination.	Issued in New South Wales.		
	Drawn on—		Total.
	New South Wales (Inland).	Other Colonies.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
o 4s. 6d. inclusive	47,587 15 0	20,411 13 0	324,646 4 4
o 10s. "	124,246 2 6		
6d. to 15s. "	41,296 10 0		
....	88,118 0 0		
ps affixed	2,986 3 10		
Total ....£	304,234 11 4	20,411 13 0	324,646 4 4

Denomination.	Drawn on New South Wales.				
	Issued in—				Total.
	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Tasmania.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
o 4s. 6d. inclusive	1,121 18 0	977 7 6	297 19 6	105 10 0	2,502 15 0
o 10s. "	2,380 10 0	1,740 10 0	559 15 0	166 17 6	4,837 12 6
6d. to 15s. "	829 14 6	568 14 6	237 4 6	46 11 6	1,682 5 0
....	4,102 0 0	2,336 0 0	547 0 0	190 0 0	7,175 0 0
nps affixed	64 16 10	66 2 1	27 17 4	7 2 9	165 19 0
Total ....£	8,498 19 4	5,688 14 1	1,669 16 4	506 1 9	16,363 11 6

No commission is paid by one colony to another in respect of notes ained for intercolonial use, but poundage is charged both by the ony in which a note is issued and by that in which it is cashed. The ındage collected in New South Wales during the last quarter of 1893 s £549 ; during the year 1894, £3,878 ; during 1895, £6,317 ; and ing 1896, £7,839. The notes range in value from 1s. to 20s., and poundage payable thereon varies from 1d. to 4d., according to the owing scale :—

Value of note.	Poundage.	Value of note.	Poundage.
s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.
1 0	1	5 0	2
1 6	1	7 6	2
2 0	1	10 0	3
2 6	1	15 0	3
3 0	1	20 0	4
4 0	1		

INSURANCE.

There are no Acts of the New South Wales Parliament regulating business of fire, life, and other forms of insurance, and local com- nies engaged in the business are either incorporated under special ts or under the Companies Act. As the law does not require the publication of returns of the business transacted within the colony, it is not customary for companies to disclose this information. The only figures available, therefore, are those relating to their whole business; but the cases are few in which a statement of the whole business of a company throws light on its operations in New South Wales. The inconvenience arising out of the state of the law in regard to insurance has been the subject of complaint by all companies seeking to transact business on sound lines, especially those companies engaged in life insurance. No deposit or other guarantee of genuineness is required, and it is open to any one to start a life office, the business transacted being only limited by the extent to which the credulity of the public may be abused. The evils in regard to fire companies are not so great as for life companies, as the risks taken are almost invariably for short periods; but they are sufficiently great to call for speedy remedy.

There were seventy-six companies, including the two Underwriters' Associations, operating in the colony during 1896; of these, only eleven were local institutions. The number doing each class of business was as follows:—

Class of Business.	Head Office.				Paid-up Capital.
	In New South Wales.	In other Australasian Colonies.	Outside Australasia.	Total.	
					£
Life only	4	6	3	13	....
Fire only	2	....	8	10	1,475,840
Marine only	....	2	18	20	2,157,866
Fire and Life	....	....	10	10	3,950,224
Fire and Marine	2	7	2	11	737,096
Fire and Guarantee	1	....	....	1	18,750
Fire and Accident	....	....	1	1	272,064
Fire, Life, and Marine	....	....	3	3	1,287,455
Fire, Marine, and Guarantee	....	1	....	1	75,000
Fire, Life, Marine, and Guarantee	....	1	....	1	125,000
Fire, Marine, Accident, Guarantee, and Plate Glass	....	2	....	2	68,308
Fire, Marine, Guarantee, Plate Glass, and Employers' Liability	....	1	....	1	15,562
Underwriters' Associations	2	....	....	2	....

The life assurance effected by the "Fire and Life" offices forms a very small proportion of their total business.

FIRE INSURANCE.

The amount of the net risks held in the metropolitan area is obtainable under the 15th clause of the Fire Brigades Act of 1884, which requires each company holding risks within the proclaimed area under the Fire Brigades Board to furnish annually to the Board the amount held at risk on the preceding 31st December within that area, less the sum re-insured with other contributory companies under the Act. This information, however, is for assessment purposes only, the companies being obliged to contribute one-third of the total annual expenditure of the Board, the sum subscribed by each being proportionate to the amount of net risks held within the said area. The total amount contributed by the companies towards the expenses of the Board during 1896 was £6,300. The net risk in the metropolitan area held by each company on the 31st December, 1896, was as follows :—

Name of Company.	Net amount at risk on 31st Dec., 1896.	Name of Company.	Net amount at risk on 31st Dec., 1896.
	£		£
Alliance Assurance Company	1,761,166	Netherlands India Sea and Fire Insurance Co.	135,000
Atlas Assurance Company	404,897	New Zealand Insurance Co.	1,906,756
Australian Alliance Assurance Co.	438,844	North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.	1,029,993
Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Co.	8,177,018	North Queensland Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	719,728
Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Co.	266,740	Northern Assurance Company	711,745
Caledonian Insurance Co.	432,267	Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society	2,171,909
City Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	3,080,340	Palatine Insurance Company (Ltd.)	520,684
Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	970,641	Phœnix Assurance Co. of London	1,062,731
Commercial Union Assurance Co. (Ltd.)	6,179,411	Queensland Mutual Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	244,228
Cornwall Fire and Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	256,748	Royal Insurance Co.	2,097,413
Derwent and Tamar Fire and Marine Insurance Co.	280,862	Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation	313,001
Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Co. (Ltd.)	549,982	Scottish Union and National Insurance Co.	450,416
Imperial Insurance Company of London (Ltd)	1,389,032	South British Fire and Marine Insurance Co. of N.Z.	1,560,863
Indemnity Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Australia (Ltd.)	135,429	Standard Fire and Marine Insurance Co. of N.Z.	787,553
Lancashire Insurance Co.	223,255	Sun Insurance Office of London	1,077,405
Lion Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	269,164	United Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	4,144,625
Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co.	2,462,800	United Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	350,629
London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co.	1,150,435	Victoria Insurance Co. (Ltd.)	1,580,209
London Assurance Corporation	293,613	Fire Underwriters' Association of N.S.W. for Offices outside the Colony	200,260
Manchester Fire Assurance Co.	381,695	Total £	59,907,953
Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co.	8,495,722		
National Fire and Marine Insurance Co. of N.Z.	1,143,689		

In cases where insurances cannot be effected in New South Wales there is an arrangement with the Fire Underwriters' Association by which the proportionate amount of the assessment due to the Fire Brigades Board is paid by the insured.

The declared amount of risks held in the metropolitan district since the Fire Brigades Act came into force was as undernoted. The figures refer to the 31st December in each year :—

1884	£36,691,000	1891	£58,415,945
1885	41,631,582	1892	61,185,715
1886	46,253,370	1893	59,844,701
1887	49,209,395	1894	59,340,096
1888	53,583,000	1895	59,720,282
1889	57,148,388	1896	59,907,953
1890	58,207,183		

The number of fires which occurred in the metropolitan district during the year 1896 was 291, which may be classified as follows, according to the damage done :—

Slight damage	230
Serious damage	27
Total destruction	34
Total	291

Besides these, there were 69 chimney fires, and 91 false alarms. One casualty which resulted fatally occurred during the year.

Of the premises totally destroyed, 26 were insured, and 8 not insured. Of those in which serious damage was effected, 24 were insured, and 3 not insured; while of those coming under the head of slightly damaged, 114 were insured, 103 not insured, and in 13 instances the insurance was unknown; so that it would appear the total number of insurances was 164, as against 114 non-insurances or 41 per cent. of the whole number for which information is available. The percentage just given must be taken with qualification, as the premises and the property therein contained frequently belong to different persons, and in order to gauge the extent to which insurance is practised it would be necessary to ascertain in how many instances the double insurance was effected. In the returns above given a property is considered insured if the premises be covered and the contents uninsured, and the converse is also the case.

The following is a statement of the fires which occurred in the metropolitan area during the past ten years :—

Year.	Slight damage.	Serious damage.	Total destruction.	Total fires.
1887	174	18	15	207
1888	222	19	25	266
1889	179	17	29	225
1890	205	12	18	235
1891	216	27	19	262
1892	270	21	23	314
1893	210	23	25	258
1894	206	23	41	270
1895	299	20	48	367
1896	230	27	34	291

Under clause 20 of the Fire Brigades Act authority is given to extend its provisions to the country districts; but owing to an ambiguous clause in the statute the fire insurance companies do not consider themselves called upon to contribute anything towards the maintenance of the country Boards, hence many of the municipalities have not taken any steps to come under the Act further than being gazetted. The country districts are served by volunteer fire companies, a return of which will be found in the subjoined table. Full particulars, similar to those given for the metropolitan district, cannot be obtained, and until the Act is made operative outside Sydney and suburbs correct returns will not be available.

number of firemen attached to the brigades in the
ountry districts, and the number of fires attended, w
the figures for the metropolis and the country, wi
Narrandera, relating to the year 1896 :—

ation.	Number of— Actual fires attended.	Men in the Brigades.
Fire		
quarters...	291	28
e-st. West		10
e-st. North		9
ghurst ...		4
own.........		4
City		3
ckville ...		4
remen......		14
olunteer		
—		
....	24	15
....	22	10
....	20	19
.. ..	17	13
....	4	12
....	20	15
....	3	13
....	4	11
....	17	11
....	1	16
y	15	14
.. ..	26	14
Brewery...	74	17
No. 1	6	16
No. 2	5	18
....	7	15
....	2	14
ewery	70	...
t Preserv-		
uburn.....	2	19
....	22	15
....	28	12
....	32	16
anies—		
....	4	14
....	3	25
....	3	16
....	7	16
....	6	10
....	4	21
(2 stations)	58	20

Name of Station.	Numb Actual fires attended.
Country Companies—*ctd.*	
Carrington	1
Cootamundra	4
Deniliquin	6
Forbes	5
Goulburn (2 stations)..	1
Glen Innes	...
Grafton	...
Grafton, South	1
Hamilton	2
Hay	2
Junee	3
Kempsey	1
Lambton	2
Lambton, New	...
Lismore	5
Maitland, East	...
Maitland, West	1
Merewether..............	1
Minmi	3
Moama..........	5
Moss Vale.................	3
*Narrandera	1
Newcastle, Central ...	14
Newcastle, West	23
Nowra	1
Orange	3
Parkes	3
Queanbeyan	...
Richmond	2
Singleton	...
Stockton	4
Tamworth	2
Taree	...
Tenterfield	...
Tighe's Hill..............	6
Wagga Wagga	...
Wallsend & Plattsburg	3
Waratah	2
Wentworth	...
Wickham..................	3
Wollongong......	4

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* No returns received; figures are for year 1895.

Life Assurance.

Life assurance, in common with other forms of financial business, received a severe blow during the crisis of 1893, from the effects of which it is only now recovering. Prior to the year named all forms of life business showed great expansion; during 1894 and 1895 this gave place to a struggle to maintain the position already acquired; but in 1896 a decided improvement in business was experienced. The falling off after the financial crisis was not to be wondered at. The sudden stoppage of credit by the locking-up of deposits in banks drove many of the policy-holders to borrow on the security of their policies, and borrowing was too frequently the first step towards the surrender of the policy on the security of which the advance was made. The busines of the last half of 1893 and of the whole of 1894 was in every respect abnormal; for it will be seen from the comparative tables given below that, taking the whole of the companies together, the surrenders and forfeitures actually exceeded the new business obtained. In dealing with the contraction in insurance business, it should be borne in mind that a good many of the old policies are now falling in, and at the same time the field from which new policies are obtained is sensibly narrowing, as the Australian colonies have been thoroughly exploited for many years, while the insurable element of four and a half million people cannot be said to be large. Of late years, however, sundry new forms of insurance have been adopted, and the companies hope in this way to more readily attract the public now that a revival seems to have set in.

Special laws regulating the business of life assurance are in existence in every colony except New South Wales; but they are by no means uniform, no two colonies having precisely the same law. During 1862 an Act was passed in New South Wales to encourage and protect life insurance, but its provisions in no way apply to the regulation of business.

On account of the absence of official returns, the particulars relating to the institutions are obtained from the reports published and circulated by the companies themselves; but, unfortunately, such statements do not allow of the business transacted locally being separated from that done elsewhere. During 1896 there were thirteen institutions operating in the colony. Of these, four were local, six had their head offices in Victoria, and three in the United States. The volume of the local business of those last mentioned proportionately to the total is, however, so small that returns relating to the American offices have been omitted from the following comparisons, except where their local business can be stated. Early in 1897 two of the Victorian Institutions amalgamated. Fourteen companies, uniting life with other classes of insurance, have local branches or agencies, but with one exception their transactions in life risks in the colony are unimportant.

Of the four local institutions, the Australian Mutual Provident Society and the Mutual Life Association of Australasia were incorporated under special Acts; and the City Mutual Life Assurance Society (Limited) and the Citizens' Life Assurance Company (Limited) were registered under the Companies Act, the former in 1878, and the latter in 1886. The six remaining institutions were incorporated in Victoria.

The results of the latest published actuarial investigations of the various societies were as follow:—

Institution.	Year when established.	Periods of Valuation.	Date.	Net or present Liability.	Surplus.
Head Office in New South Wales—				£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society	1849	Annual......	31 Dec., 1896	13,211,261	512,817
Mutual Life Association of Australasia.	1869	Triennial....	31 Dec., 1894	963,477	85,508
City Mutual Life Assurance Society (Limited).	1879	,, ...	31 Dec., 1894	108,128	9,901
Citizens' Life Assurance Company (Limited).	1886	Annual......	31 Dec., 1896	95,845	14,666
Head Office in Victoria—					
Australian Alliance Assurance Company.	1862	Triennial....	31 Dec., 1894	279,915	18,874
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia.	1869	,, ...	30 Sept., 1895	1,390,529	169,695
*Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria (Limited).	1870	Quinquennial	31 Dec., 1895	795,170	70,702
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society (Limited).	1871	,, ..	31 Oct., 1896	1,166,499	156,662
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (Limited).	1874	,, ..	31 Dec., 1894	1,567,431	226,198
Australian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society.	1876	,, ..	30 Sept., 1895	165,427	2,210

* Amalgamated with the National Mutual Life Association from 1st January, 1897.

The net or present liability represents the present value of the sums assured in respect of whole life and endowment assurance, reversionary bonuses, endowments, and annuities in force at date of valuations, less the present value of the future pure premiums thereon. The surplus given represents the amount available for distribution amongst policyholders, and actuarial and commercial reserves.

Eight of the companies are mutual, and the remainder are what is termed in insurance parlance "mixed"—that is, proprietary companies dividing profits with the policy-holders; while two of the institutions also transact industrial business, and one company, the Australian Alliance Assurance Company, conducts fire and marine insurance. The returns for each society, however, apply only to the ordinary life business. Most of the offices have representatives in all the seven colonies, and one institution—the Colonial Mutual—has extended its operations to London and South Africa.

The following table gives the policies in force and the sums assured in each society at the close of 1896; the item "Sums assured" means the sums payable, exclusive of reversionary bonuses, at death, attaining a certain age or at death before that age :—

Institution.	Policies in force, exclusive of Annuities.	Sums Assured, exclusive of Bonuses and Annuities.	Bonus Additions.	Total, inclusive of Bonuses.
	No.	£	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society	128,650	40,731,231	7,892,672	48,623,903
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	16,877	4,445,575	266,271	4,711,846
City Mutual Life Assurance Society.........	6,136	892,850	14,793	907,643
Citizens' Life Assurance Company..........	12,554	1,465,772	33,113	1,498,885
Australian Alliance Assurance Company ..	1,615	556,830	46,692	603,522
National Mutual Life Association	29,142	6,557,028	542,337	7,099,365
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria	13,921	3,152,112	164,866	3,316,978
Australian Widows' Fund....................	20,062	4,422,260	134,126	4,556,386
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society	32,261	10,351,235	317,270	10,668,505
Australasian Temperance and General Life Assurance Society	5,869	922,898	13,067	935,965
*Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States	7,882	....	....	3,950,146
*Mutual Life Assurance Company of New York	2,212	....	....	1,462,785
*New York Life Insurance Company	2,932	....	....	1,723,773

* Australasian business only.

The following table shows the business in force at the close year immediately preceding that of the crisis, the year followin crisis, and at the close of 1896. As was to be expected, the vol assurances decreased in nearly every society from 1892 to 1894, a results as disclosed by the figures afford another striking instance widespread distress following the events of 1893. During however, most of the societies exhibited a considerable improv in their business.

Institution.	Amount Assured, excluding Bon and Annuities.	
	1892.	1894.
	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society	38,888,283	39,510,130
Mutual Life Association of Australasia......	4,430,669	4,166,359
City Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.).	719,999	776,946
Citizens' Life Assurance Company (Ltd.)...	429,084	845,984
Australian Alliance Assurance Company ...	769,987	645,463
National Mutual Life Association of Victoria (Ltd.).	6,479,001	6,338,659
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria (Ltd.)	3,665,517	3,332,312
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society (Ltd.).	4,939,075	4,555,968
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd).	10,827,028	10,533,271
Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)...	827,566	812,370
* Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States......	4,335,522	4,211,667
* Mutual Life Assurance Company of New York........	1,107,258	1,253,462
* New York Life Insurance Company	1,883,765	1,665,068

* Australasian business only, including Bonuses.

he following table gives a summary of the new business co
ng the past eight years by the ten Australian offices represe
South Wales. The assurance and endowment policies only a
, as the annuity transactions are unimportant:—

Year.	Policies.	Amount Assured.		Annual Premiums.	
		Total.	Per Policy.	Total.	Per £100 o Assurance.
	No.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1889	27,553	7,905,449	287	252,736	3 3 11
1890	28,840	8,420,670	292	274,614	3 5 3
1891	28,032	8,435,673	301	273,061	3 4 9
1892	27,965	7,977,154	285	262,647	3 5 10
1893	24,488	6,019,408	246	197,086	3 5 6
1894	25,721	6,062,494	236	202,315	3 6 9
1895	27,098	6,384,455	236	215,013	3 7 4
1896	29,611	6,895,567	233	230,896	3 7 0

will be noticed that the average sum assured fell to £233 in
e the annual premium for £100 is larger than for any of th
s shown with the exception of 1895. It would seem from th
that the depression of the past five years has had the effect
ng the insuring powers of the people; while the proportionate i
he premium is accounted for by the growth of the endo
rance business. At the present time 39 per cent. of th
rance business is of this description, and it is evident t
bination of investment with insurance thus afforded has o
ong hold on the assuring public. The average sum assur
wment policy is below that of the whole life policies, wh
age annual premium is higher, as many of the policies are fo
s. The new assurances effected during the year, less th
ness or discontinuances, represent the annual additions to th
red; this, or its opposite, is shown in the following compari
six years ended 1896:—

Year.	New Assurances.	Void Business.	Net yearly increase to sums assured.
	£	£	£
1891	8,435,673	5,096,730	3,338,943
1892	7,977,154	6,099,772	1,877,382
1893	6,019,408	6,218,360	*198,952
1894	6,062,494	6,305,437	*242,943
1895	6,384,455	5,796,308	588,147
1896	6,895,567	5,501,385	1,394,182

* Decrease.

he receipts of the societies are chiefly represented by the coll
premiums on policies and the interest arising from investm

the accumulated funds; while payments on account of policies matured and surrendered, cash bonuses, and expenses of management chiefly comprise the disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of each society during 1896 were as follow:—

Institution.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess Receipts (Addition to Funds).
	£	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society	2,029,674	1,463,747	565,927
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	197,722	149,729	47,993
City Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	38,590	23,065	15,525
Citizens' Life Assurance Company (Ltd.)	55,483	24,423	31,060
Australian Alliance Assurance Company	31,834	34,669	*2,835
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia	292,928	190,760	102,168
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria (Ltd.)	153,940	118,734	35,206
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	213,879	145,487	68,392
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	392,705	275,569	117,136
Australian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	39,707	24,234	15,473
Total	3,446,462	2,450,417	996,045

* Denotes decrease.

The aggregate receipts and disbursements, under the accepted heads, for the ten institutions were as follow:—

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Premiums—		Claims	1,258,872
New	215,733	Surrenders	568,539
Renewal	2,139,563	Annuities	25,202
Consideration for Annuities	45,142	Cash Bonuses and Dividends	88,402
Interest	1,038,993	Expenses	437,422
Other Receipts (Rents, etc.)	7,031	Amount written off to Depreciation, Reserves, etc.	71,980
Total £	3,446,462	Total £	2,450,417

In 1894, for the first time for many years, the amount of interest earned and rents received was insufficient to meet the demands under the head of claims; the excess to be made good from the other sources, however, was small. In 1895 and 1896 the same conditions prevailed. The yearly additions to the accumulated funds are largely dependent on the volume of assurances current, and any changes in the one are reflected in the figures of the other; it is, therefore, not surprising that coincident with the shrinkages in the volume of assurances in force up to the year 1894, the amount added to the accumulated funds had correspondingly fallen off. During the years 1895 and 1896, however, the additions to the funds have shown a considerable increase. The nt of funds and the interest received thereon, for the seven years with 1896, were as follow:—

Year.	Accumulated Funds.		Interest.	
	Additions during year.	Total Amount.	Amount received.	Average Rate realised.
	£	£	£	per cent.
1890	1,404,215	14,580,210	827,909	5·97
1891	1,380,553	15,960,763	902,774	5·91
1892	1,360,100	17,320,863	967,678	5·81
1893	1,147,143	18,468,006	991,369	5·54
1894	912,276	19,380,282	1,041,529	5·50
1895	1,057,942	20,438,224	1,037,477	5·21
1896	996,045	21,434,269	1,038,993	4·96

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

e societies establish annually a statement of their liabilities and s, with the object of showing the distribution of the accumulated and the amount placed to commercial reserve. The returns are, ver, in no way connected with the valuation balance-sheets pre- at the date of the actuarial investigation. The assets and liabili- or each institution, for the financial year of 1896, are shown in ubjoined table:—

Institution.	Assets.			Liabilities.		
	Loans on Mortgages and Policies.	Government and Muni- cipal Securities, Free- hold Property, Cash on Deposit, etc., etc.	Total.	Assurance Endowment and Annuity Funds.	Paid-up Capital Reserve Funds, etc., etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ian Mutual Provident Society	11,335,415	2,823,202	14,158,617	13,728,540	430,077	14,158,617
Life Association of Austral-	741,457	406,074	1,147,531	1,135,760	11,771	1,147,531
utual Life Assurance Society d.)	86,882	59,131	146,013	144,999	1,014	146,013
s' Life Assurance Company d.)	79,602	33,091	112,693	110,511	2,182	112,693
lian Alliance Assurance Com- y	310,976	256,058	567,034	280,328	286,706	567,034
l Mutual Life Association of stralasia	1,084,902	604,652	1,689,554	1,592,391	97,163	1,689,554
Assurance Society of Victoria d.)	575,073	334,981	910,054	878,556	31,498	910,054
ian Widows' Fund Life As- ance Society (Ltd.)	1,112,063	216,885	1,328,948	1,319,658	9,290	1,328,948
l Mutual Life Assurance iety (Ltd.)	1,132,947	914,438	2,047,385	1,993,108	54,277	2,047,385
lian Temperance and General tual Life Assurance Society d.)	138,062	88,155	226,217	215,984	10,233	226,217
Total	16,597,379	5,736,667	22,334,046	21,399,835	934,211	22,334,046

* Including Fire and Guarantee Branches. † Including Industrial Branch.

About three-fourths of the total assets are represented by loan mortgage; indeed, in these colonies insurance companies are al restricted to this form of investment, and to loans on policies. remaining items require no special comment, except loans on pers security. Investments of this character are unusual in Austral the amount invested aggregating only £81,024. In some of the colo the companies are obliged by law to deposit certain sums with Treasury as a guarantee of good faith, and the amount so lodge included either under the head of Government securities or of depo

EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT OF ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

The ratio of expenses of management to premium income and g receipts must necessarily vary according to the age of the society the proportion of new business transacted. The figures are given what they are worth. That a more exact comparison cannot be mad the fault of certain companies which fail to make a complete disclo of their affairs, and do not distribute their expenses of managemen that the cost of new business may be distinguished from that of business; the reports of other companies are unequalled in any par the world :—

Institution.	Expenses of Management.		
	Amount.	Proportion to—	
		Premium Income.	Gros Receip
	£	per cent.	per ce
Australian Mutual Provident Society	182,882	13·92	8·
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	41,912	29·62	21·
City Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	9,426	30·74	24·
Citizens' Life Assurance Company (Ltd.)	8,322	16·34	15·
Australian Alliance Assurance Company	4,065	19·54	12·
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia	52,912	24·75	15·
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria (Ltd.)	31,975	29·64	20·
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	37,288	24·67	17·
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	77,828	25·29	19·
Australian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society (Ltd.)	10,812	33·04	27·

ASSURANCE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

The average amount assured per policy for each colony, and for United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, is given in the lowing table. The Australasian business of the American institut luded from the previous returns has been included for the purpose of ablishing the Australian averages shown herewith :—

Country.	Average sum assured per Policy.	Average Premium per £100 of Assurance.
	£	£ s. d.
Australasia	288	3 7 4
New South Wales	333	3 6 8
Victoria	270	3 7 5
Queensland	330	3 1 10
South Australia	247	3 7 2
Western Australia	372	3 2 11
Tasmania	263	3 9 2
New Zealand	265	3 3 4
United Kingdom	397	3 7 6
United States (New York only)	538	....
Canada	356	3 5 8

The average amount of assurance per head of population was, in stralasia, £21; in Canada, £11; in the United Kingdom, £13; and the United States, £12; while the average number of policies per ousand of population was, in Australasia, 66; in Canada, 38; in the ited Kingdom, 32; and in the United States, 23.

The average policy is scarcely a fair measure of thrift. In these lonies mutual assurance is the rule, and members of the various cieties have acquired large bonus additions. The average existing licy, including reversionary bonus, of the Australasian companies ring 1896, was £311, as compared with the £288 shown in the comrative table.

It would seem that the practice of assuring life is much more evalent in Australasia than in any of the other countries instanced; d although the average sum assured by each policy is less, the number policies is so much greater, as compared with the population, that the ount assured per inhabitant is considerably higher.

BANKRUPTCY.

The present Bankruptcy Act came into force in January, 1888, superling a system which made insolvency a very easy matter. It was pected that the new Act would give a healthier tone to trade, and crease the number of cases in which debtors would have recourse to to be relieved of their engagements. The result anticipated, however, in no wise been realised, and bankruptcies are now just as numerous formerly. In the nine years during which the present law has been force, 11,561 petitions in bankruptcy have been received; of these, 9,948 we led by the bankrupts themselves, and 1,613 on be creditors. The petitions were not granted or were withdrawn cases, so that the total sequestrations actually made numbered The following is a statement of the bankruptcy petitions fo of the nine years during which the present Bankruptcy Act ha in force :—

Year.	Petitions in Bankruptcy.			Petitions withdrawn, refused, etc.
	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1888	735		851	28
1889	935		1,101	39
1890	1,079		1,243	50
1891	1,016		1,238	49
1892	1,267		1,506	43
1893	1,535		1,744	59
1894	1,364		1,512	47
1895	1,080		1,280	61
1896	937		1,086	46
Total...	9,948		11,561	422

A bankrupt may obtain his discharge in one of three ways— sequestration order made against him being annulled, by the rele his estate, or by a certificate of discharge being granted to him. bulk of the certificates issued are obtained under the last-mentioned only two sequestration orders have been annulled, and 80 estates been released since the existing Act has been in force, while certificates of discharge have been granted. The number of c cates issued from 1st January, 1888, to 31st December, 1896, w follows:—

Year.	Sequestration Orders annulled.	Estates released.	Certificates of Discharge granted.	Compositions accepted.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1888	....	1	26	5
1889	....	14	114	7
1890	....	4	95	4
1891	....	3	309	....
1892	1	19	185	....
1893	....	6	152	2
1894	....	....	147	....
1895	....	12	142	....
1896	1	21	95	1
Total	2	80	1,265	19

number of estates in respect of which certificates of discharge or
were granted was 1,366, or 12 per cent. of the total sequestrations.
ne few cases application is made for a certificate and refused;
ng for these, it would appear that out of 100 bankrupts 88 are
or too indifferent to take the necessary steps to free themselves
bankruptcy. Under the law the property of an uncertificated
upt, even if acquired subsequently to sequestration, is liable to
on behalf of unsatisfied creditors; and as applications for certifi-
of discharge are the exception rather than the rule, it would
that the great majority of bankrupts neither attain nor hope
ain a position in which they are likely to be disturbed by
sfied creditors. Before a certificate is granted all fees owing to
urt and official assignees must be paid, and it is certain that not
who elect to remain uncertificated do so in order to avoid payment
se fees. The number of sequestrations during the nine years
ct has been in force was 11,139, and of these 9,773 remain uncer-
ed. During 1896 the total number of sequestrations was 1,040;
bilities, according to bankrupts' schedules, were £627,314; and
sets amounted to £409,928. The qualification "according to
upts' schedules" is necessary, as the returns of assets and liabilities
shed after investigation by the Court differ widely from those
ed by bankrupts:—

Year.	Sequestrations.	Nominal—		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
	No.	£	£	£
1888	823	659,307	459,677	199,630
1889	1,062	794,603	396,723	397,880
1890	1,193	1,203,685	540,726	662,959
1891	1,189	989,778	454,211	535,567
1892	1,463	2,035,316	793,045	1,242,271
1893	1,685	1,527,985	905,763	622,222
1894	1,465	1,852,235	995,935	856,300
1895	1,219	1,142,637	747,053	395,584
1896	1,040	627,314	409,928	217,386
Total	11,139	10,832,860	5,703,061	5,129,799

dividend rates paid on the amount of proved liabilities of
which have been wound up are not given, as to establish such
involve an investigation of the transactions in each estate; and
this operation would not result in complete returns being
shed, as there are many estates which remain unsettled over a
eriod of years. There are three official assignees to assist the
in winding up the estates. Each official pays all money received
to the Registrar in Bankruptcy, who places the amount to the

credit of the Bankruptcy Estates Account, from which all char fees, and dividends are met. The official assignees are also require furnish quarterly statements of the transactions in each estate dur that period, and the figures given in the two statements following w obtained from these returns. The charges under each head were:—

Year.	Peremptory Charges.		Legal Costs.	Paid into Consolidated Revenue.		Commission to Official Assignees.	Total Charg
	Auction.	Rent, Valuation, Labour, etc.		Court Fees.	Percentage.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1890	4,268	9,613	3,064	70	382	3,443	20,84
1891	3,019	18,439	6,202	1,508	726	5,386	35,28
1892	3,692	10,350	7,192	1,582	891	5,581	29,28
1893	3,952	13,743	7,133	1,473	652	5,691	32,64
1894	3,571	18,308	7,139	1,528	1,143	8,610	40,29
1895	2,780	16,752	8,519	1,414	718	6,182	36,36
1896	1,955	22,488	6,113	1,321	551	4,665	37,09

The official assignees receive 2½ per cent. on the amount realised, a a similar rate on the amount of dividends declared; in addition this the Judge may grant special remuneration. The dividends pa and the undivided balances at the end of each year were as follow:—

Year.	Dividends Paid.	Money in hands of Official Assignees.		Balance of Bankruptcy Estates Account.
		Unpaid and unclaimed Balances.	Unpaid Dividends.	
	£	£	£	£
1890	26,289	1,987	287	22,037
1891	52,304	1,449	432	21,651
1892	45,084	1,145	591	20,284
1893	40,433	9,532	132	27,287
1894	70,381	863	305	30,985
1895	50,640	314	530	16,738
1896	31,557	9,610	747	23,553

On the 30th June, 1897, there remained to the credit of the Ban ruptcy Unclaimed Dividend Fund £6,787, and to the Bankrupt Suitors Fund, to which account interest earned by the Unclaim Dividend Fund is placed, the sum of £432.

District Registrars in Bankruptcy have been appointed through the colony, and in most instances the positions are filled by Poli

Magistrates or other court officials. District Registrars have the same powers and jurisdiction as the Registrar in respect to examinations of bankrupts, and the technical business of the court.

The following table gives the callings of persons becoming bankrupt during 1896; no trade, however, is recorded which showed less than 10 bankrupts:—

Calling.	No.	Calling.	No.	Calling.	No.
Labourers	138	Bakers	15	Solicitors	12
Miners	107	Blacksmiths	14	Dairymen	11
Farmers	50	Butchers	14	Tailors	11
Hotel-keepers	47	Carters	14	Painters	10
No occupation	37	Graziers	14	Others (under 10 Sequestrations)	370
Carpenters	24	Produce Dealers	14		
Contractors	23	Builders	13		
Storekeepers	23	Grocers	13	Total	1,040
Agents	22	Boarding-house-keepers	12		
Clerks	20	Bootmakers	12		

The foregoing pages deal with the commercial aspect of bankruptcy; other information relating to legal procedure will be found in the chapter dealing with the transactions of the Law Courts.

TRANSACTIONS IN REAL ESTATE.

The Real Property Act came into force in 1862, dealings in real estate before that year having been regulated by the Deeds Registration Act of 1843. The Real Property Act completely revolutionised the procedure in regard to land transfers, and was modelled on the lines of legislation in South Australia adopted at the instance of Sir R. R. Torrens—hence the popular name of Torrens' Act. The chief features of the Act are the transferring of real property by registration of title instead of by deeds; the absolute indefeasibility of the title when registered; and the protection afforded to owners against possessory claims, as a title issued under the Act stands good notwithstanding any length of adverse possession. From the passing of Torrens' Act all lands sold by the Crown were conveyed to the purchasers under its provisions, and the provisions of the old law were restricted to transactions in respect of grants already issued. The area for which grants under the old system had been issued in 1862 was 7,478,794 acres; since then 1,226,062 acres have been brought under the provisions of Torrens' Act, so that the area still under the Deeds Registration Act is

,732 acre Lands are allowed to be placed under Torrens' Act
when th titles are found to be unchallengeable; but thousands of
are bro t under the Act during the course of every year, so that
nerely a uestion of time when the whole of the lands of the
y will b under a uniform system. The area of Crown lands
veyed and private lands brought under the Real Property Act
during the decade ended 1896 was as follows:—

Year.	Crown Lands conveyed under the Act.		Private Lands brought under the Real Property Act.		Total.	
	Area.	Value.	Area.	Value.	Area.	Value.
	acres.	£		£	acres.	£
1887	382,649	470,6		1,140,155	429,967	1,610,816
1888	318,875	4		1,840,008	380,960	2,261,066
1889	355,330	512,23		1,348,812	400,639	1,861,048
1890	194,953	336,369		1,068,348	274,628	1,404,717
1891	279,247	403,421		1,163,044	330,392	1,566,465
1892	189,990	301,165		1,243,890	273,617	1,545,055
1893	253,941	306,842	44,999	962,413	298,940	1,269,255
1894	267,730	485,006	45,756	808,234	313,486	1,293,240
1895	289,157	261,262	22,230	755,114	311,387	1,016,376
1896	320,474	226,440	53,717	861,811	374,191	1,088,251

For the whole period during which the Real Property Act (Torrens') has been in operation, 17,263,629 acres, valued at £19,614,645, have been conveyed under its provisions, and 1,226,062 acres, valued at £20,462,872, have been brought under it, and deeds under the old Act to the same extent cancelled.

The transfers and conveyances of private lands which take place during ordinary years indicate in some measure the condition of business; the volume of these transactions, however, in some years cannot be relied upon as giving more than an indication of speculation or inflation. In the following table, which covers ten years, there is shown the consideration money paid on sales of private lands during each year, excludi of course, lands sold on long terms. During 1888 land to the £11,068,873 changed hands, but in 1896 the amount had fi

£4,221,330. The year 1888 marked the last flickering of the boom period, when land speculation proceeded on a scale of unexampled recklessness. The other extreme was reached in 1895, when the transactions amounted to only £3,674,837, but although the figures for 1896 show a slight improvement, transactions in land still very largely represent conveyances by mortgagors and mortgagees, genuine speculation in land having almost wholly died out:—

Year.	Conveyances or Transfers.		
	Under Old System.	Under New System.	Total.
	£	£	£
1887	3,598,034	2,784,853	6,382,887
1888	5,893,373	5,175,500	11,068,873
1889	4,169,822	3,333,411	7,503,233
1890	3,954,358	3,600,392	7,554,750
1891	4,564,285	3,602,082	8,166,367
1892	3,537,829	2,716,379	6,254,208
1893	2,317,777	2,532,211	4,849,988
1894	1,945,527	2,048,977	3,994,504
1895	1,812,199	1,862,638	3,674,837
1896	2,212,158	2,009,172	4,221,330

As already mentioned, the Real Property Act provides that on the issue of a certificate the title of the person named on the certificate is indefeasible. Provision is, however, made for error in transfer, by which persons might be deprived of their rightful property, as should the transfer be made to the wrong person the holder of the certificate cannot be dispossessed of his property unless he has acted fraudulently. To indemnify the Government for compensating persons who, through error, may have been deprived of their properties, an assurance fund has been created by a contribution of one halfpenny in the pound on the declared capital value being levied on property first brought under the Act, and upon transmissions of titles of estates of deceased proprietors. It is an undeniable proof of the value of the Act and the facility of its working that payments from the assurance fund to the 31st December, 1896, in respect of titles improperly granted, amounted to only £3,113.

ount iid into the Treasury on account of the assurance fund each he six years ended 1896 were as follow :—

r.	Collections, less Refunds.	Compensation and Cost of Legal Actions.	Amounts Credited to Fund.
	£	£	£
1891	5,345	Nil	5,345
1892	4,670	1,053	3,617
1893	4,083	Nil	4,083
1894	4,882	367	4,515
1895	4,276	1	4,275
1896	3,912	12	3,900

The assurance fu rt of the Trust Fund of the Treasury, amounted lose of 1896, and bears interest at rates varying from he accretions to this fund, that is, interest and collecti t £7,000 per annum, while the total withdrawals durin cy of the Act have only reached £3,000; thus, as there l of the amount annually added growing larger as years bids fair to attain considerable dimensions.

s.

All mortgages, except l by the Bills of Sale Act of 1855 and the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894, are registered at the Registrar-General's Office, and it is a fair assumption that the number recorded represents the bulk of the mortgages effected. Where more than one mortgage has been effected on the same property, the mortgages take priority according to the time of registration, and not in accordance with their respective dates. The amount of consideration for which a mortgage stands as security is not always stated in the deeds, the words "valuable consideration" or "cash credit" being inserted instead of a specific sum in many of the transactions of banks and other loan institutions, in cases where the advances made are liable to fluctuation; and as this frequently occurs when the property mortgaged is of great value, an exact statement of the total advances against mortgages cannot be given It must be borne in mind, therefore, that the figures in the tables given below refer only to cases in whch a specific amount is stated in the deeds, whether that amount be the sum actually advanced or not. What is true of mortgages registered holds good for discharges, the amount of which, as shown in the tables, is still further reduced by the exclusion of mortgages which have been satisfied by foreclosure or seizure, a record of which is not available. Many mortgages, therefore, appear in the official records as current, notwithstanding the property which they represent has passed away from the mortgag

MORTGAGES OF REAL ESTATE.

Mortgages of land are registered either under the Deeds Registration Act of 1843 or the Real Property Act of 1862, according to the Act under which the title of the property stood at the time of registration. The mortgages registered for each of the ten years ended 1896 were :—

Year.	Registrations—					
	Under Deeds Registration Act.		Under Real Property Act.		Under both Acts.	
	Number.	Consideration.	Number.	Consideration.	Number.	Consideration.
		£		£		£
1887	6,108	5,869,302	4,239	6,930,665	10,347	12,799,967
1888	7,452	8,765,109	4,274	7,520,914	11,726	16,286,023
1889	9,312	7,277,334	4,416	7,256,931	13,728	14,534,265
1890	9,883	8,072,218	4,697	8,559,662	14,580	16,631,880
1891	10,348	10,520,261	4,523	8,535,876	14,871	19,056,137
1892	10,450	9,328,563	4,644	6,770,594	15,094	16,099,157
1893	9,351	7,434,029	4,704	6,034,324	14,055	13,468,353
1894	8,901	5,824,797	4,277	5,624,968	13,178	11,449,765
1895	8,467	7,183,729	3,886	4,741,877	12,353	11,925,606
1896	7,855	5,428,148	3,677	4,652,779	11,532	10,080,927

The consideration given generally represents the principal owing; in some cases, however, it stands for the limit within which clients of banks and other loan institutions are entitled to draw, though many of these clients may be in credit while their property is mortgaged and unreleased.

The amount of mortgages discharged has always been much less than the amount registered, for, as previously mentioned, the discharges do not include foreclosures, which if not formally registered as discharges are nevertheless mortgages cancelled. The volume of the releases is also reduced by mortgages paid off in instalments, as the discharges may be given for the last sum paid, which might happen to bear a very small proportion to the total sum borrowed; and, further, the total of discharges is reduced owing to the practice, now largely followed, of allowing mortgages maturing on fixed dates to be extended for an indefinite period.

Conveyances under mortgage or purchases of equity of redemption, and transfers which represent dealings between mortgagee and mortgagee, are, in [illegible] of value, unimportant; nevertheless, to complete th transact[illegible] mortgages, returns covering the period of ten year ended 1896 are given below. The table is incomplete, as the consideration in respect of conveyances and transfers under the Rea Property Act cannot be given :—

Year.	Deeds Registration Act of 1843.				Transfers of Mortgage under Real Property Act.
	Conveyances under Mortgage.		Transfers of Mortgages.		
	Number.	Consideration.	Number.	Consideration.	Number.
				£	
1887	297	[illegible]	240	501,621	168
1888	192	[illegible]	276	829,753	189
1889	204	[illegible]	83	38,690	192
1890	117	[illegible]	210	229,010	180
1891	348	[illegible]	246	390,243	218
1892	392	[illegible]	253	1,219,401	255
1893	430	210,92	383	276,507	347
1894	374	381	508	485,489	318
1895	320	159,[illegible]	600	768,368	308
1896	467	256,967	370	287,361	227

MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK AND WOOL.

Liens on wool, mortgages on live stock, and liens on growing crops are registered under special Acts, the two first mentioned under a measure passed in 1847, and the liens on growing crops under one passed in 1862. The mortgages on live stock are current till discharge, while the liens on wool mature at the end of each season and terminate without being formally discharged. Mortgages under each Act are valid without the stock or crops being delivered to the mortgagees. The figures relating to live stock are given in some detail, as they throw considerable light on the condition of the great industry of the country. They must, however, be taken with this qualification, that the amount stated represents in many cases merely nominal indebtedness, and the advances are not in every instance made to persons financially embarrassed. But with full allowance on this score, the figures given hereunder will make it plain how large a hold the lending institutions have great pastoral industry. The following statement shows the ool and the mortgages on live stock registered during each of the ten ears ended 1896 :—

ear.	Preferable Liens on Wool.			Mortgages on Live Stock.				
	Number.	No. of Sheep.	Consideration.	Number.	No. of Sheep.	No. of Horned Cattle.	No. of Horses.	Consideration.
			£					£
1887	1,285	9,296,975	1,685,655	1,563	3,954,286	79,312	11,464	2,054,785
1888	1,174	9,800,520	1,282,125	1,998	4,002,148	80,120	12,364	2,003,216
1889	1,169	7,861,233	1,282,065	2,018	4,572,477	100,026	11,824	2,432,704
1890	1,461	9,005,582	1,562,270	2,230	4,962,300	93,298	12,543	3,159,636
1891	1,701	10,201,412	1,320,823	2,328	6,896,947	111,432	16,728	2,632,758
1892	2,051	12,094,876	1,688,661	2,326	5,966,971	142,695	16,904	2,814,637
1893	2,257	13,204,407	1,935,660	2,270	8,357,014	227,531	24,241	*3,176,725
1894	2,627	16,084,929	1,952,451	2,167	6,586,711	698,448	18,016	*2,059,381
1895	2,509	14,689,647	2,101,048	1,901	4,983,071	148,629	18,292	2,254,290
1896	2,364	11,309,327	1,341,949	1,768	4,748,695	93,550	24,520	1,705,245

* The figures for 1893 and 1894 include the consideration for 245 and 22 camels respectively.

To supplement the information just given, the following table, which hows the proportion of the flocks of the colony covered by lien and nortgage, has been compiled. In addition to the numbers given, a onsiderable quantity of stock is in the hands of financial institutions s mortgagees in possession, but an exact statement of this it is not ossible to obtain :—

ear.	Sheep.			Horned Cattle.			Horses.		
	Total in Colony.	Involved in Lien and Mortgage.	Proportion involved to total flocks.	Total in Colony.	Involved in Mortgage.	Proportion involved to total herds.	Total in Colony.	Involved in Mortgage.	Proportion involved to total number.
	No.	No.	per cent.	No.	No.	per cent.	No.	No.	per cent.
1887	46,965,152	13,251,261	28·2	1,575,487	79,312	5·0	390,609	11,464	2·9
1888	46,503,469	13,802,068	29·7	1,622,907	80,120	4·9	411,368	12,364	3·0
1889	50,106,768	12,433,710	24·8	1,741,592	100,026	5·7	430,777	11,824	2·7
1890	55,986,431	13,967,882	24·9	2,091,229	93,298	4·5	444,163	12,543	2·8
1891	61,831,416	17,098,359	27·7	2,128,838	111,432	5·2	469,647	16,728	3·6
1892	58,080,114	18,061,847	31·1	2,221,459	142,695	6·4	484,309	16,904	3·5
1893	56,980,688	21,561,421	37·8	2,269,852	227,531	10·0	493,231	24,241	4·9
1894	56,977,270	22,671,640	39·8	2,465,411	698,448	28·3	518,181	18,016	3·5
1895	47,617,687	19,672,718	41·3	2,150,057	148,629	6·9	487,943	18,292	3·7
1896	48,318,790	16,058,022	33·2	2,226,163	93,550	4·2	510,636	24,520	4·8

The mortgages shown represent the annual registrations; hence the heep involved were those pledged during 12 months only, and as the urrency of a mortgage on live stock, unlike that of a lien, which erminates at the end of the season, is variable, it follows that the gures in any year do not represent the total number of sheep covered y mortgage, and that the proportion of the flocks held under lien and nortgage, after making every allowance for releases, is therefore somewhat higher than that stated. This remark applies equally to the gures given for horned cattle and horses.

DISCHARGES OF MORTGAGES.

The discharges registered amount in an ordinary year to about o sixth of the mortgages of live stock registered. The figures for ten ye ended 1896 were:—

Year.	Number.	Amount.	Year.	Number.	Amount.
		£			£
1887	210	1,073,674	1892	317	985,048
1888	240	1,160,307	1893	286	1,062,827
1889	256	1,191,089	1894	334	496,041
1890	368	2,512,551	1895	372	1,053,863
1891	380	1,184,372	1896	432	886,218

There were also 50 discharges of liens amounting to £28,171 duri 1896; these represent transfers of security and repayments during t season, as liens terminate by effluxion of time at the close of the w season.

LIENS ON GROWING CROPS.

Under the provisions of the Act, liens on agricultural and hortic tural produce, the duration of which must not exceed one year, a made. Such advances do not ordinarily reach large sums either in vidually or in their total, as there is an element of uncertainty in t security offered. During the last ten years the advances ranged fro £67,379 to £247,466 per annum. The liens registered in 1896 we 2,567 in number, covering advances to the extent of £202,605:—

Year.	Number.	Consideration.	Year.	Number.	Consideration.
		£			£
1887	949	67,379	1892	1,416	130,155
1888	1,006	247,466	1893	1,789	159,007
1889	1,227	83,748	1894	2,291	181,432
1890	1,089	75,439	1895	2,621	219,392
1891	1,171	78,448	1896	2,567	202,605

Of the total registrations it is estimated that 40 per cent. are effect on sugar-cane crops.

MORTGAGES ON SHIPS.

Mortgages of registered British vessels are dealt with under t Merchant Shipping Act of 1894. The mortgages are, according to t Act, divided into two classes, one in which the ship is the sole securi and the other in which the advances are made on the security of what is termed in the Act "the account current," which may comprise ships, wharfage appliances, etc. Registrations are effected at the two ports of registry, Sydney and Newcastle; the returns given in the subjoined statements, however, apply only to the former port for years prior to 1895:—

Year	Mortgage on ships only.				Mortgage on account current.			
	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
1891	32	17,777	6	2,472	4	3,672	8	8,800
1892	34	17,971	8	16,675	17	51,293	6	10,000
1893	22	12,882	10	6,681	11	315	15	3,019
1894	34	11,420	18	12,427	4	1,855	7	16,600
1895	24	9,790	9	4,617	9	900	15	19,730
1896	18	6,165	18	19,630	9	5,450	4	7,250

The number of mortgages registered in which ships figure as the sole security represents the vessels encumbered, that is to say, "one ship one mortgage"; the number of mortgages in the other class may or may not represent the number of vessels mortgaged. The discharges of mortgage during the same period were as follow:—

Year.	Mortgage on ships only.				Mortgage on account current.			
	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
1891	13	8,052	9	8,754	3	No amount	7	12,400
1892	21	9,219	5	2,968	6	2,717	2	872
1893	20	13,962	4	12,866	1	No amount	2	90
1894	13	5,948	11	9,725	1	do	nil.	nil.
1895	28	11,096	7	8,664	6	216	8	1,000
1896	15	5,230	9	13,553	2	501	2	150

In some cases of mortgages on account current the amount of consideration is not stated, and the figures given must be accepted with this qualification.

BILLS OF SALE.

All mortgages of personalty other than ships and shipping applia wool, live stock, and growing crops, are filed and entered at the Supr Court under the Bills of Sale Act of 1855. This Act provides that document shall be filed and entered within 30 days after it is mad given, otherwise the transaction is illegal; and to prevent fraud imposition the records are open to the inspection of the public. total amount of advances annually made on bills of sale is not rea available, but judging from the number of bills filed the sum mus considerable. The provisions of the Act are availed of by all classe the community, but brewers and money lenders figure conspicu among the transferrees. No complete record is made of the terminated voluntarily or by seizure, the official records showing those discharged in the ordinary way. Seizures of the security gi which generally comprises household furniture and stock-in-trade common occurrences, and it is to be regretted that no record of is kept; but, as previously shown, the neglect in the registratio foreclosures is a weakness in the procedure under all Acts regul mortgage transactions. The bills filed and the discharges registere the seven years ended 1896 were as follow:—

Year.	Bills of Sale.	
	Filed in Supreme Court.	Satisfied or orders for discharge made.
1890	3,045	221
1891	2,697	136
1892	2,776	132
1893	3,111	96
1894	2,752	77
1895	2,512	140
1896	2,375	158

SUMMARY OF MORTGAGES.

The volume of mortgages registered and discharged under each is given below. As the returns are incomplete, from causes alr alluded to, no general total has been established. The following shows the total consideration of the mortgages registered during each of the last five years :—

Property.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
On Real Estate—	£	£	£	£	£
Under Deeds Registration Act	9,328,563	7,434,029	5,824,797	7,183,729	5,428,148
,, Real Property Act..........	6,770,594	6,034,324	5,624,968	4,741,877	4,652,779
On Personalty—					
Liens on Wool	1,688,661	1,935,660	1,952,451	2,101,048	1,341,949
Mortgages on Live Stock	2,814,637	3,176,725	2,059,381	2,254,290	1,705,245
Liens on Growing Crops	130,155	159,007	181,432	219,392	202,605
Mortgages on Ships	35,406	19,833	24,907	14,407	25,795
,, ,, and Shipping Appliances	*61,293	*3,334	18,455	*20,630	*12,700
Bills of Sale			Not available.		

* Figures incomplete.

The consideration of the mortgages of which discharges were registered during each of the last five years is given below :—

Property.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
On Real Estate..	£	£	£	£	£
Under Deeds Registration Act	2,718,350	1,864,021	2,060,696	2,505,730	3,106,361
,, Real Property Act..........	2,809,272	1,927,794	2,083,092	2,715,443	2,798,795
On Personalty—					
Liens on Wool			At end of each Season.		
Mortgages on Live Stock	985,048	1,062,827	496,041	1,053,863	886,218
Liens on Growing Crops			At end of each Season.		
Mortgages on Ships	13,641	26,988	16,273	19,760	18,783
,, ,, and Shipping Appliances	3,589	*90	......	*1,216	651
Bills of Sale			Not available.		

* Figures incomplete.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The position occupied by Friendly Societies at the present day is a most important one, on account of the strong influence which they exert on the welfare of the industrial classes of the population; and recognising the services which they render to the community by the inculcation of habits of thrift, and the relief of cases of distress which it would otherwise be the duty of the public to alleviate, the State, while forbidding the carrying on of operations by an unregistered society, and imposing a penalty on each member of its committee should it accept money in consideration of any interest therein, grants certain privileges to societies

whose rules have been certified to by the Registrar as being in confor
with the law. These privileges are as follow :—

1. A registered Society can legally hold land and other kin
property in the names of trustees, such property passing
one trustee to another by the mere fact of appointment,
can carry on all legal proceedings in the trustees' names.

2. The Society has a remedy on summary conviction whenever
person—
   (*a*) Obtains possession of its property by false r
   sentation or imposition ;
   (*b*) Having possession of any of its property, withi
   or misapplies it ;
   (*c*) Wilfully applies any part of such property to
   poses other than those expressed or directed b
   rules and authorised by the Act.

3. If an officer of the Society dies or becomes bankrupt or insol
or if an execution is issued against him whilst he has mon
property of the Society in his possession by virtue of his
the trustees of the Society are entitled to claim such m
or property in preference to any other creditors.

4. The documents of the Society are free from stamp duty.

5. The Society can admit members under twenty-one and
from them binding receipts, which would otherwise be
effect.

6. If it invests money on mortgage, such mortgages can be
charged by a mere endorsed receipt without reconveyance

7. Its officers are legally bound to render account and give u
money or property in their possession on demand or no
and may be compelled to do so.

8. Disputes can be legally settled according to the Society's
rules.

9. Members of registered Friendly Societies have the privile
legally insuring money, on the deaths of their wives
children, for their funeral expenses, without having an i
able interest in their lives.

10. Members of registered Societies may dispose at death of
payable by the Society by written nomination without a
and this nomination may be made by youths of sixteen
cannot make a will till they are twenty-one.

11. Where there is no will and no nomination, the trustees
distribute sums without letters of administration being
out (a person who should do so in any other case would
himself liable for the debts of the deceased).

Most of the Friendly Societies operating in New South Wales were founded by old members of English orders who had emigrated to Australia before the light of public investigation had been thrown upon the business of the societies in Great Britain, and an exposure made of the unscientific principles on which they were being conducted. Accordingly, the societies established in this colony were from the commencement worked under a fallacious system, which was regarded as perfect, and as soon as it was discovered that there was an accumulation of funds the members looked upon the money as their personal property—in fact, as profit derived from their exertions. They argued that any probable change from the existing satisfactory condition of affairs would be fully compensated for by the introduction of younger members, who in their turn would be satisfied with the present, and trust to others in the future; and any proposal for the application to their affairs of the scientific principles which governed the operations of friendly societies elsewhere was strenuously opposed as unnecessary until very recently, when many leading members were induced, owing to the rapid depletion of the funds of their orders, to give serious consideration to their position.

One of the principal causes which raised this false feeling of security was that in times of general prosperity many employers paid good workmen their wages during short periods of sickness in order to retain their services, and members in receipt of high wages and in tolerably easy circumstances did not feel the necessity of accepting assistance from their lodges. Also, it must be borne in mind that in those years the members were young, and even if all claims had been preferred it is probable that the benefits would not have amounted to a large sum, so that the funds of the societies could not do otherwise than increase in spite of the inadequate scale of contributions charged. An examination of the records of the registration of amended rules shows what the accumulation of capital led to: in many cases the members of a society thought it right not only to lower their contributions, but at the same time to increase the benefits given. The inevitable results have happened; the members have grown older, the claims on account of sickness and death have increased, and the depression in trade has compelled those out of employment to come upon the funds whenever possible, so that many of the societies now existing are in a state of insolvency.

As has already been stated, now that the fallacy underlying the old system of conducting the affairs of the societies has been so forcibly exploded, some attempt is being generally made to place affairs on a sound basis, but even now the steps taken by many of the older members are halting and uncertain; they concede that an error of judgment was committed in the past, but are unwilling to tax themselves to any considerable extent for the purpose of placing matters upon a better footing. At the same time they are convinced that no new members should be admitted unless they pay according to a properly-adjusted scale of contributions. It is the intention of the Government to prepare a Bill under which the societies may be brought into a more satisfactory position than they occupy at the present time.

A list of the principal societies is given below, from which it will be seen that at the end of 1895 there were in existence 15 leading orders (some of them sub-divided into districts, provinces, or grand divisions), comprising 804 distinct subordinate branches; and 24 independent societies:—

Name of Orders or Societies.	Lodges or Branches.	Members.	Members good on books.	Amount of Lodge or Branch Funds.	Amount of District or Grand Lodge Funds.	Total Funds.
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
Manchester Unity I.O.O.F.—						
Sydney District	60	10,063	9,448	93,314	27,232	120,546
Cumberland District	9	507	463	1,584	786	2,370
Hunter River District	7	661	600	7,115	2,176	9,291
Goulburn District	12	1,423	1,310	11,954	8,022	19,976
Newcastle District	11	1,225	1,173	2,945	7,228	10,173
Bathurst District	22	1,654	1,523	12,843	6,684	19,527
Tamworth District	16	1,799	1,698	18,578	7,813	26,391
Riverina District	7	709	663	4,355	2,671	7,026
Braidwood District	2	91	82	663	1,558	2,221
Young District	4	356	331	1,897	931	2,828
Grand United O.O.F.—						
Sydney District	43	4,718	4,126	22,264	9,328	31,592
Braidwood District	20	1,030	861	5,548	6,572	12,120
Manning River District	6	210	166	1,138	847	1,985
Newcastle District	3	352	308	2,161	631	2,792
Hunter River District	25	1,736	1,546	8,533	3,101	11,634
Bathurst District	6	537	441	2,105	1,861	3,966
Goulburn District	9	590	510	3,092	1,506	4,598
Williams River District	6	284	252	2,434	493	2,927
Committee of Management	..	....	....	....	214	214
Widow and Orphans' Fund in the Hunter River District.	..	....	....	....	580	580
Independent O.O.F.	71	5,071	4,410	21,072	15,735	36,807
National Independent O.O.F.	6	586	456	770	345	1,115
Ancient Order of Foresters—						
Sydney District	47	3,618	3,202	14,250	7,960	22,210
New England District	4	194	153	159	238	397
Neutral Courts	7	998	903	9,164	...	9,164
Order of Royal Foresters	20	1,860	1,728	9,289	18,286	27,575
Irish National Foresters	4	256	184	734	120	854
United Ancient Order of Druids—						
Sydney District	53	4,631	4,110	9,004	7,721	16,725
Newcastle District	11	1,068	973	4,976	3,255	8,231
Grand United Order of Free Gardeners.	27	1,606	1,490	2,981	137	3,118
Independent Order of Rechabites	40	1,590	1,364	1,449	7,313	8,762
Sons and Daughters of Temperance	75	4,137	3,656	22,274	2,066	24,340
Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia.	58	6,163	5,489	31,553	15,434	46,987
Loyal Protestant Benefit Society	23	822	713	1,868	1,032	2,900
Hibernian Australasian Benefit Society.	23	1,775	1,504	4,450	4,168	8,618
Australasian Holy Catholic Guild.	25	1,751	1,575	10,151	6,056	16,207
Miscellaneous Societies	24	4,202	3,951	15,576	....	15,576
Total	804	68,833	61,357	362,243	180,120	542,363

The benefits promised by Friendly Societies are, in kind, much the same in all societies, and usually comprise medical attendance and

;ine for a member and his family, sick pay—generally £1 per week ıe first six months, reduced thereafter to 15s. or 10s. ; allowance in vent of the death of a member's wife, and funeral money to his wife e death of a member. The Act limits the amount payable on the . of a member to £200, and no annuity can be granted above £50, here is no limit to the amount of sick pay, although the rules of societies limit the total amount receivable weekly to 42s., nor to ıumber of societies to which one person may belong, and from which ay receive benefits, but the combined benefits must not exceed the ›-mentioned amounts.

addition to the Friendly Societies properly so called, some of the ;ered Trade Unions give benefits analogous to those of the societies ioned above. The benefits, however, are usually smaller in amount, m exceeding 12s. a week for sick pay, and £7 in case of death. A 'rade Unions also make allowance to their members when they are f employment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

NEW SOUTH WALES is slow to adopt a general system o
government, notwithstanding the pressing necessity for
step. In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Z
comprehensive systems of local government have been in existe
many years, and the benefits derived therefrom are recognised, n
by the Governments, but by the ratepayers whose property is a
The central Government is relieved of responsibility and expe
which form no part of its proper functions, while the property-
though compelled to pay rates from which he was previously free, i
fited in other ways which more than compensate for the direct pe
payment.

Under the system at present obtaining in New South Wa
district, however populous, is compelled to become incorporated,
is only on the presentation of a petition, signed by at least fifty
prospective ratepayers, and containing a larger number of sig
than those attached to any counter petition, that a municipality
formed. Judged by past experience, this voluntary principle
conducive to the adoption of a general system of local governme
so long as the central Government continues to construct local w
is evident that the residents benefited will submit to the ab
local management of their affairs.

In the course of the year 1894 a Bill was submitted to the L
tive Assembly, providing for the incorporation of the entire uni
rated area of the colony into boroughs, municipal districts of a ma
area of 400 square miles, and shires; but in consequence of th
tion of a clause which they considered contrary to a vital princ
the Bill, the measure was abandoned by the Government.
proposed by the Bill to alter the municipal year so as to
from the 1st January to the 31st December; to alter the bou
of existing municipalities by proclamation of the Governor
petition; to rate Crown lands when under lease or license; t
the assessment on either the capital or annual value, the rate
former to be from $\frac{1}{8}$d. to $\frac{3}{4}$d. per £; to raise the maximum
general rate to 1s. 3d. in the £ on annual value; to extend the
of endowment in certain instances to thirty years, the sum
ranging in amount, per £ of general rates collected, from 60s.
the first five to 10s. during the last five years, down to 10s. duri

first five and 2s. 6d. during the last five years; to submit certain questions, such as the levying of a special rate, the rating on the capital or the annual value, and the raising of loans, to a general vote of the ratepayers; to levy local rates for works of local benefit; to expend on each riding or ward of a municipality the amount of rates collected from the residents of that riding or ward; to give power to erect rabbit-proof fences, to grant aid to hospitals, and to prevent destruction by fire; to take material for any kind of municipal work from any land on payment of compensation; and to raise the borrowing powers to ten times the total of the general rate.

At the end of 1860 the total area incorporated was 409 square miles; in ten years this had increased to 649 miles only; in 1880 to 1,482 miles; in 1890 to 2,387 miles; and in the early part of 1897 to 2,761 square miles—a very insignificant total compared with the whole area of territory. The subjoined figures give the incorporated and unincorporated areas on the 1st February, 1897, in each of the three great divisions of the colony:—

Division.	Incorporated Area.	Unincorporated Area.
	square miles.	square miles.
Eastern	2,011	92,445
Central	492	86,165
Western	258	124,695
Total	2,761	303,305

In addition to the ordinary form of municipal local government, there are various boards and trusts with local jurisdiction, to the operations of which allusion will hereafter be made. The control of water supply and sewerage of the Metropolitan and Hunter districts is relegated to separate boards. At Hay and Balranald there are irrigation trusts, the formation of which was provided for by special Acts; the Municipal Councils constitute the trusts. Another trust, which was established at Wentworth, has been dissolved, and its powers assumed by the Government. The Public Vehicles Regulation Act, the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act, and the Fire Brigades Act, were all passed with the object of extending the principle of local government, and boards have been established to carry out the provisions of some of these Acts.

Leaving out of consideration the expenditure on works of national importance, the Government has, during the past thirty-six years and a half, expended no less than £28,792,000 on works of a purely local character, not including school buildings. Of this sum, £19,270,200 was laid out in the country districts, and £9,521,800 in the metropolitan. The division of the colony into local government districts would not necessarily be followed by an entire stoppage of the direct expenditure on works of local interest by the central Government, but the larger portion of the works now undertaken by Government would be left to the local authorities, who, having to provide the expenditure, would probably see that it is laid out to the best advantage. Adopting the two divisions of metropolitan and country, the expenditure on account of public works in each since 1860 is given below. Out of the total metropolitan expenditure, £6,689,300 was spent on tramways and water supply and sewerage works, which are sources of revenue, while in the country districts the cost of similar works totalled £1,023,600 only :—

Year.	Country districts.		Metropolitan District.		Total.	
	Expenditure.	Per Inhabitant.	Expenditure.	Per Inhabitant.	Expenditure.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1860-1880	5,649,382	....	1,065,410	....	6,714,792	....
1881	583,471	1 1 10	357,182	1 10 10	940,653	1 4 7
1882	704,892	1 5 5	702,696	2 17 8	1,407,588	1 15 3
1883	758,052	1 6 1	931,615	3 12 7	1,689,667	2 0 3
1884	940,858	1 10 8	669,209	2 9 5	1,610,067	1 16 5
1885	981,951	1 10 7	704,636	2 9 5	1,686,587	1 16 4
1886	868,923	1 6 0	767,906	2 11 1	1,636,829	1 13 9
1887	784,941	1 2 9	556,660	1 15 2	1,341,601	1 6 8
1888	904,477	1 5 9	344,414	1 0 8	1,248,891	1 4 0
1889	798,383	1 2 4	583,786	1 13 2	1,382,169	1 5 11
1890	874,077	1 3 10	444,723	1 4 0	1,318,800	1 3 11
1891	1,126,446	1 9 11	790,491	2 0 7	1,916,937	1 13 6
1892	1,034,686	1 6 8	563,015	1 7 9	1,597,701	1 7 0
1893	790,500	0 19 11	416,100	1 0 0	1,206,600	0 19 11
*1894-5	1,421,000	1 14 7	408,300	0 19 4	1,829,300	1 9 5
1895-6	1,048,200	1 4 1	215,700	0 10 7	1,263,900	0 19 9

* Eighteen months ended June, 1895.

INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

e City of Sydney was incorporated on the 20th July, 1842, and Sydney Municipal Council established during the same year, the ion of aldermen taking place on the 9th November. Mr. John ing was the first Mayor. The city was first divided into six s, but at a subsequent adjustment the number was increased to , as at present. After a few years great dissatisfaction arose in inds of the citizens in regard to the manner in which the affairs e Council were carried on; a Select Committee of the Legislative cil was appointed in 1849 to inquire into the matter, and it ted in favour of the abolition of the Municipal Council, with a mendation that its powers should be vested in three Commissioners appointed for that purpose. This was not carried into effect until , when the Corporation was dissolved, and its powers were trans- d to a Commission, consisting of Messrs. G. Elliott, J. Rae, and arvall, who administered the affairs of the city from the beginning 54 to the end of 1857. The new Council came into existence at the ning of 1858. Mr. George Thornton was the first Mayor under ew order of things, and there were sixteen aldermen, two for each . Under the present Act—Sydney Incorporation Act of 1879—umber of aldermen was increased to twenty-four, each ward having representatives, as is the case in the other municipalities.

SUBURBAN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

e Act by which the City of Sydney was incorporated contained no ision for the extension of the municipal principle to other localities; in 1843 the first step was taken towards the extension of the system e country districts by the incorporation under letters patent of pbelltown, Appin, Camden, Narellan, and Picton as one District cil, which was afterwards, in the course of the same year, under a al Act, subdivided into two by the formation of Campbelltown and in into a separate Council.

1844 the number of country District Councils had increased ght, and these, in conjunction with the Municipal Council of ey and the Road Trusts, subsequently established, constituted hole of the local government system prior to 1858. During this the first important measure relating to general municipal govern- was enacted. An Act was passed making provision for dissolving, cessary, the District Councils, and placing the areas controlled by under municipal bodies. Under its authority thirty-five districts incorporated, which, with the exception of Cook, joined to Cam- own in 1870, and East St. Leonards, subsequently united to

St. Leonards, still exist, although nearly one half have been reproclaimed in the interim on account of additions or curtailments of area. The law was further amended by the Municipalities Act of 1867. Since this Act was passed many amendments have been made, but the main provisions have been preserved, and many municipalities in various parts of the colony have been established under its authority.

Boards and Trusts.

The majority of the boards dealing with local affairs have jurisdiction within the metropolitan area and work mostly in connection with the local municipalities, although possessing powers independent of these bodies. The Metropolitan Transit Commissioners were appointed under the Public Vehicles Regulation Act of 1873, prior to which date the control of the street traffic was vested in the City Council. The Board originally consisted of three members, but in 1886 the number was increased to four by the appointment of a licensees' representative. The receipts during 1896, which were obtained from licenses (of which 4,485 were issued), fines, etc., amounted to £5,169, and the expenditure to £5,216.

Under the authority of the Fire Brigades Act of 1884, a Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board and thirty-two country Boards have been established. The cost of maintaining the Metropolitan Brigade is contributed in equal amounts by the Government, the municipalities within the proclaimed area, and the fire insurance companies holding risks within these municipal districts. In 1896 the contributions consisted of £6,300 from the insurance offices interested, £6,300 from the Government, and £6,258 from the city and suburban municipalities. The amount of risk on the 31st December, 1896, was £59,907,953, showing an increase of nearly 30 per cent. in ten years, the total at the close of 1886 having been £46,253,370. Some of the country boards receive subsidies from the Government and the municipalities interested, but the insurance companies do not consider themselves bound by the Act to subscribe to the expenditure in connection with country boards. In addition to the Boards constituted under the Act, several municipalities contribute to local Fire Brigades; and in a preceding chapter, under the head of Fire Insurance, will be found some particulars respecting the calls attended.

The Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage was established in 1887, and that of the Hunter District in 1892; reference to their transactions will be found in subsequent pages.

Prior to 1889 the regulation of the port of Wollongong was subject to the Marine Board of New South Wales. In the year named an Act was passed which transferred the control of the port to a Trust composed of twelve Commissioners, who were empowered to improve, manage, and regulate the port. The revenue during 1894 was £6,507, and the expenditure, £7,988. The Trust, which was the only one of its kind in the colony, was dissolved in the latter part of 1895, when the Government took over the administration of the port.

Irrigation Trusts were established at Wentworth, Hay, and Balranald, under special Acts passed in 1890, 1892, and 1893 respectively. It was provided in each case that the members of the Municipal Council for the time being should be the trustees, and that they should, with the permission of the Governor-in-Council, be authorised to borrow money for the purpose of tapping the neighbouring rivers, and of erecting plant and constructing works for the irrigation of a portion of the temporary common, which should be divided into lots and leased to suitable persons. The area brought under the Wentworth Trust consisted of 10,600 acres; and £1,000 was spent in preliminary expenses during 1894. Under a special clause of the Act, however, the trust has now been dissolved, and its powers assumed by the Government, who have constructed the necessary works. The land administered by the Hay Trust, comprising 12,847 acres, was thrown open in December, 1893, and at the end of 1894, 62 holdings, embracing an area of 778 acres, had been applied for. The principal crops planted were barley, wheat, and oats. The receipts during the year 1896 amounted to £120 6s. 6d., of which £111 represented grazing dues, and £9 6s. 6d. deposits on allotments; and the expenditure to £14 3s. 3d. The credit balance at the close of the year was £128 15s. 8d., but the Loan Account showed a debt due to the Bank of £3,389 18s. 6d. At Balranald an area of 1,000 acres has been surveyed, and several blocks of from 5 to 40 acres taken up. Pumping machinery has been erected, and works for the distribution of the water commenced. The trustees have petitioned for the dissolution of the Trust, as at Wentworth.

MUNICIPALITIES, 1895–6.

Under the provisions of the Municipalities Act of 1867, contiguous districts with an area of not more than 9 square miles, and a population of not less than 1,000, may be incorporated as boroughs; and districts of not more than 50 square miles, with a population of not less than 500, may be formed into municipal districts. Since the passing of this Act the number of municipalities has steadily increased, the total in 1877 having been 76; in 1887, 122; and at the beginning of 1897, 183. Of these, 76 were boroughs and 107 municipal districts, the City of Sydney being classed with the former, as are the remainder of the 35 municipalities established under the previous Act of 1858. In the course of the municipal year, 1896–7, Grafton was divided into two, the detached portion being named South Grafton, and one new incorporation took place, namely, Ingleburn. Notwithstanding the relatively small area incorporated, the population within the boundaries of these

528,760 persons.

The estimated value of land, houses, and other per
ments in the colony may be approximately stated a
of which £127,499,700 is the value of ratable proper
porated districts. The value of unsold Crown lands i
included in this estimate.

Authority is given by the Act to maintain the th
construct lighting, sewerage, and water supply works,
necessary rates in connection therewith ; to make and
for the maintenance of the public health and the abatem
to license vehicles plying for hire ; and generally to t
the material and sanitary condition of the residents.

By the Municipal Wharfs Act of 1893, Councils a
purchase or lease any wharfs, jetties, piers, etc., ere
district, and to borrow money for the purpose of c
landing places.

The Sydney Corporation Act directs that valuers sh
from time to time to assess improved property within
fair average annual value, with an allowance for outgoi
ing 10 per cent., and on the value of such assessment
exceeding 2s. in the £ may be levied, exclusive of li
Courts are held annually. The latest assessment was
but the rate has stood at 16d. since 1891, and has ag
that figure for 1897. This rate is the only one at
The Act, however, provides also for a special local rat
6d. in the £ of annual value, for any work which
particular benefit of one locality, but then only if tw
ratepayers of such locality petition for the same. Occa
of this power has been taken for street-watering, tho

are empowered to raise revenue by rates on the value so found, not exceeding 1s. in the £ for ordinary purposes, and the same amount for special purposes. The amount of each rate is calculated upon nine-tenths of the fair average annual rental of all buildings and cultivated lands, or lands which are, or have been, let for pastoral, mining, or other purposes, whether such lands or buildings are actually occupied or not; and upon 5 per cent. of the capital value of the fee-simple of all unimproved lands. In some cases lands are leased at merely nominal rentals, and attempts have been made to amend the law so that in no case shall the annual value of ratable property be computed at less than 5 per cent. of its capital value, but so far without success. The maximum general rate is now, in the majority of cases, found inadequate, and special grants of 5s. to 20s. per £ of general rates collected have been voted by Parliament from time to time, the two latest being one of 5s. on rates collected between the months of February and August, 1895, and another of the same amount on collections between August, 1895, and August, 1896. None of these special grants applied to the City of Sydney. In addition to these special general grants, a sum of £11,023 was granted, and £9,724 was paid, as special grants, principally towards the maintenance of municipal roads, in the course of the eighteen months from the beginning of 1895 to the end of June, 1896.

During the municipal year 1896–7 the ordinary rate of 1s. in the £ was levied in all the suburban and country municipalities, with the exception of Darlington, Carcoar, Cooma, and Cudal, which imposed 9d., and Lithgow, which imposed 6d. In Darlington the rate of 9d. included the cost of lighting the borough by gas, and in a few country municipalities the cost of street lighting was also paid out of the general rate. There were 95 municipalities where lighting rates were imposed, ranging from 1d. to 6d. in the £ for gas, 3d. to 6d. for electric light, and 2d. to 3d. for oil lamps. In only 26 municipalities, exclusive of those supplied by the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, was there a water rate, viz., 1s. in the £, with four exceptions—two at 9d., and two at 8d. Manly was the only municipality which has erected waterworks under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act; while Hay was the only one of the country municipalities which had taken advantage of the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act, where a rate was not levied to defray the cost of the service, the supply being optional, and the charge made by meter. Other special rates, mostly for street-watering, were levied in some of the municipalities. Only two districts—Kempsey (¼d.) and Wollongong (½d.)—levied a library rate—reading facilities being afforded without charge by the local council in many other towns, or, for a small fee, by the local School of Arts or Mechanics' Institute. Although authorised by the Act of 1867 to levy a rate for the purpose of providing the means of education for young children, it is not necessary to take advantage of this provision, owing to the excellent system of public instruction in force in the colony.

Municipalities which avail themselves of the provisions of the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act of 1880 are empowered to levy a rate for each service not exceeding a maximum of 5 per cent. on the assessed value of land and tenements, in addition to the ordinary municipal rates. At the 30th June, 1897, there were, including Richmond, 27 municipalities with water-works constructed under the provisions of the Act, while works were in progress at Tamworth.

The Noxious Trades and Cattle Slaughtering Act and the Dairies Supervision Act are administered by the Board of Health; but licensed premises are supervised by the Municipal Councils, who receive the fees. In unincorporated districts the Acts are in charge of the police.

In order to aid municipalities in providing for the expenditure attending their inception, the Act of 1867 provides for endowment being granted for a period of fifteen years. In each of the first five years after incorporation, every municipality is entitled to a sum equal to the whole amount actually raised by rates or assessments paid during the past half year; in each of the next succeeding five years, a sum equal to one moiety; and in each of the next succeeding five years, a sum equal to one-fourth of the amount so received. After the expiry of these fifteen years the assistance which municipalities may demand from the Government ceases, and further aid from the State must be obtained by special grant.

The City Act of 1879 provided for an annual endowment by the State of £25,000 for a period of ten years. It also enacted that all fees for auctioneers' licenses within the city should be paid over by the Treasury to the City Council. The amount so received in 1895 was £2,137, and in 1896, £3,438. Although the Act authorised the raising of loans equal in amount to five years' revenue after the discontinuance of the endowment in 1889, yet it has been found convenient to obtain special Parliamentary sanction to each new loan. Particulars of all City loans will be found on page 998.

Under the 1867 Act the Council of any municipality may borrow on debentures, mortgage, or bond, hypothecating any land, personal estate, or annual revenue, actual or prospective, belonging to the municipality, provided that the amount borrowed does not exceed the estimated revenue for five years. In 1884 and 1888 Acts were passed empowering the Councils to contract special loans for the erection of gasworks and town halls, and in 1893 another amending Act, empowering the Councils to raise money to repay loans, became law.

About one half of the municipalities are divided into wards, the number of which is regulated by the population; and every person, whether male or female, of the full age of twenty-one years, who, on the 7th day of January in any year, may be the occupier, lessee, or owner of any ratable property within any municipality, and who may have paid rates on the same prior to day of election, is entitled to vote. If the property be assessed at an annual value not exceeding £25, the ratepayer is entitled to one vote; if assessed at over £25 and not exceeding £75, to two votes; if over £75 and not exceeding £150, to three votes; and if over £150, to four votes. Voting is by ballot, as in Parliamentary elections; and by special enactment, both owner and tenant are entitled to vote in the City of Sydney, the ratepayer being allowed the cumulative vote (if any), the other one vote only. It is impossible to say, in the present state of the returns of the suburban and country municipalities, how many persons in the aggregate have the right to vote; but there were 399 aldermen in suburban, and 1,200 in country municipalities, which would give one alderman to 786 residents in the former, and to 283 in the latter. In December, 1896, the number of electors in the eight wards of the City of Sydney was 22,428, being an average of 935 electors per alderman. Only three wards were contested, the votes polled being 5,470. In the other municipalities, in February, 1896, 164 wards were contested out of a total of 372. The municipal year in the City of Sydney is from 1st January to 31st December, and the elections are held on the 1st December in each year. In all the other municipalities the year begins on the first Tuesday in February, on which day the nominations are made, polls for contested seats being taken within a week; one-third of the aldermen retire annually, and two auditors for the year are elected.

The following table shows the capital and annual values and the assessment of boroughs and municipal districts for the year 1896–7 :—

Division.	Capital Value of—		Total Amount of General Rate Levied.	Fair Average Annual Value of—	
	Improved Land with Buildings thereon.	All Ratable Property.		Improved Land with Buildings thereon.	All Ratable Property.
	£	£	£	£	£
City of Sydney	44,740,700	44,740,700	134,222	2,237,040	2,237,040
Suburbs	39,747,400	46,686,400	132,119	2,558,000	2,904,950
Total, Metropolitan...	84,488,100	91,427,100	266,341	4,795,040	5,141,990
Country	32,380,700	36,072,600	110,750	2,277,150	2,461,745
Grand Total	116,868,800	127,499,700	377,091	7,072,190	7,603,735

As previously mentioned, a nominal annual value is frequently set upon unimproved land in order to avoid full rating, and in such cases no accurate estimate can be made of the real value of the property. It may be taken, therefore, that the figures, both in the preceding and the following table, suffer on this account. On the other hand, it has been found difficult to obtain valuations which show the total extent of the decline in the values of real estate since 1893, for it is not generally considered that the reduction of the capital value is in ratio to that of the annual value as indicated by the lower rating. It will probably be found that the figures based on the rating for 1897–8 will show a still further reduction :—

Municipal Year.	Metropolitan Area.		Country Municipalities.	Total.
	Sydney.	Suburbs.		
	£	£	£	£
1886-7—Annual value......	2,035,235	1,935,884	1,713,578	5,684,697
Capital value.........	40,704,700	29,410,787	21,828,805	91,944,292
1887-8—Annual value	2,096,476	2,289,685	1,727,951	6,114,112
Capital value..... ...	41,929,520	32,960,620	21,657,828	96,547,968
1888-9—Annual value......	2,131,026	2,501,904	1,895,591	6,528,521
Capital value.........	42,529,525	35,536,209	27,738,434	105,804,168
1889-90—Annual value ...	2,228,817	2,987,061	2,149,566	7,365,444
Capital value.........	44,576,340	45,635,138	30,073,617	120,285,095
1890-1—Annual value......	2,276,362	3,110,825	2,405,163	7,792,350
Capital value.........	45,527,240	48,208,834	33,475,972	127,212,046
1891-2—Annual value......	2,710,488	3,141,101	2,505,214	8,356,803
Capital value.........	51,237,600	47,987,210	34,784,948	134,009,758
1892-3—Annual value......	2,785,846	3,227,851	2,683,806	8,697,503
Capital value.........	55,716,900	51,174,200	37,386,300	144,277,400
1893-4—Annual value... ..	2,777,245	3,290,637	2,861,593	8,929,475
Capital value.........	55,550,000	54,511,000	40,877,000	150,938,000
1894-5—Annual value......	2,496,175	3,190,022	2,774,477	8,460,674
Capital value.........	55,470,000	53,481,000	42,275,000	151,226,000
1895-6—Annual value... ..	2,361,290	2,991,630	2,542,725	7,895,645
Capital value.........	47,225,800	49,466,400	39,509,900	136,202,100
1896-7—Annual value......	2,237,040	2,904,950	2,461,745	7,603,735
Capital value.........	44,740,700	46,686,400	36,072,600	127,499,700

The increase shown in this table to have taken place between 1886 and 1894 is very considerable, the annual value having risen from

584,697 to £8,460,674, and the capital value from £91,944,292 to 1,226,000. Part of this increase was due to an additional number listricts incorporated; but when allowance is made for these it will be found that the capital value increased by something like 49 per ;. During the last two years there has been a fall of 15 per cent. he capital value, after taking into account the addition to the total he incorporation of new municipalities.

he details of the net increase during the ten years from 1886–7 to 6–7 are as under —

Division.	Increased annual value during ten years.		Increased capital value during ten years.	
	Total.	Per cent.	Total.	Per cent.
	£		£	
of Sydney	201,805	9·92	4,036,000	9·92
urbs of Sydney	969,066	50·06	17,275,613	58·74
ntry Municipalities	748,167	43·66	14,243,795	65·25
Total	1,919,038	33·76	35,555,408	38·67

he growth of the city and suburbs has been marvellous, and Sydney stands as the second city of the British Empire, as estimated by annual value of its ratable property, Melbourne ranking third. annual value of property in Sydney and suburbs, covering an area 0,230 acres, was, in February, 1896, £5,141,990; while, during the e year, the annual value of Greater Melbourne, with an area of ,942 acres, was £4,339,000. The following are the annual values ome of the principal cities of Great Britain at the latest available s :—

London (County)	£35,852,468
Glasgow	4,208,000
Liverpool	3,775,045
Manchester*	2,934,545
Birmingham	2,217,392
Leeds	1,420,366
Sheffield	1,239,447
Bristol	1,113,625
Bradford	1,097,661
Newcastle-on-Tyne	1,075,153
Nottingham	892,479

* Excluding Salford.

The capital value of all ratable property in municipalities for 1896-7 is shown in the following table:—

Municipality.	Total Capital Value of Ratable Property.
Metropolitan—	£
Sydney	44,740,700
Suburbs—	
Alexandria	795,300
Annandale	759,900
Ashfield	2,075,500
Balmain	3,284,200
Botany	240,700
Botany North	333,000
Burwood	1,500,000
Camperdown	651,500
Canterbury	709,400
Concord	550,000
Darlington	263,900
Drummoyne	367,700
Enfield	329,600
Erskineville	333,300
Five Dock	240,900
Glebe	2,224,100
Hunter's Hill	620,100
Hurstville	696,100
Kogarah	513,100
Lane Cove	343,700
Leichhardt	1,407,000
Manly	911,000
Marrickville	2,290,000
Marsfield	67,300
Mosman	756,200
Newtown	2,427,300
North Sydney	3,987,100
Paddington	2,215,200
Petersham	2,127,200
Randwick	1,708,400
Redfern	2,320,000
Rockdale	977,300
Ryde	515,300
St. Peter's	551,400
Strathfield	913,900
Vaucluse	165,900
Waterloo	777,000
Waverley	2,525,200
Willoughby	844,700
Woollahra	2,337,000
Total, Suburbs £	46,686,400
Total, Sydney	44,740,700
Total, Metropolitan £	91,427,100
Country—	£
Aberdeen	67,300
Adamstown	128,700
Albury	423,800
Armidale	427,100
Auburn	397,000
Ballina	104,400
Balranald	70,100
Bankstown	184,300
Bathurst	1,052,600
Bega	279,400
Berry	323,000
Bingara	55,600
Blayney	138,900
Bombala	94,400
Bourke	434,900
Bowral	333,000
Braidwood	171,100
Broken Hill	1,232,600
Broughton Vale	66,000
Burrowa	125,700
Cabramatta and Canley Vale	115,200
Camden	220,800
Campbelltown	214,700
Carcoar	32,300
Carrington	167,300
Casino	154,400
Castlereagh	66,500
Cobar	172,600
Condobolin	125,900
Cooma	234,900
Coonamble	201,800
Cootamundra	201,000
Coraki	48,600
Cowra	175,300
Cudal	89,900
Cudgegong	414,000
Deniliquin	327,500
Dubbo	366,600
Dundas	181,600
Dungog	91,500
Ermington & Rydalmere	117,500
Forbes	439,100
Gerringong	208,500
Glen Innes	312,700
Gosford	91,500
Goulburn	1,077,900
Grafton	497,000
Granville	753,100
Grenfell	111,300

nicipality..	Total Capital Value of Ratable Property.	Municipality.	Total Capital Value of Ratable Property.
—continued.	£	Country—*continued.*	£
	96,200	Peak Hill	55,900
	178,300	Penrith	300,300
ai	110,200	Picton	100,100
ah	88,900	Plattsburg	230,600
n	523,700	Port Macquarie	76,900
	332,600	Prospect & Sherwood	407,800
d	36,200	Queanbeyan	81,300
	128,300	Quirindi	159,700
a Central	671,600	Raymond Terrace	66,800
a North	264,700	Richmond	153,600
rn	32,600	Rookwood	288,400
	229,500	Scone	83,400
o	340,000	Shellharbour	235,100
ie	152,700	Shoalhaven, South	165,300
	157,500	Silverton	68,700
ba	177,000	Singleton	232,500
y	177,800	Singleton, South	101,100
	256,500	Smithfield & Fairfield	162,000
n	188,800	St. Mary's	194,000
n, New	130,000	Stockton	198,500
	389,500	Tamworth	396,600
	388,700	Taree	78,400
ol	410,800	Temora	153,700
	97,400	Tenterfield	220,200
d, East	321,900	Tumut	114,000
d, West	895,600	Ulladulla	305,100
ther	354,900	Ulmarra	199,000
ng	156,400	Uralla	60,400
	150,300	Wagga Wagga	438,500
	95,600	Walcha	118,800
	159,200	Wallendbeen	124,800
	107,300	Wallsend	283,400
	107,800	Waratah	377,100
le	257,700	Warren	128,600
	281,600	Wellington	149,100
	75,000	Wentworth	55,400
burrah	112,400	Wickham	758,700
ndi	63,700	Wilcannia	113,800
lbrook	172,000	Windsor	180,400
i	140,700	Wingham	41,700
i West	49,000	Wollongong	413,500
lera	234,000	Yass	208,300
le	2,431,800	Young	236,900
	211,000		
	83,800	Total, Country £	36,072,600
	396,100	Total, Metropolitan	91,427,100
East	179,800		
	266,000		
tta	1,370,200	Grand Total £	127,499,700

Mining property is subject to rating only in respect of the va the surface area and of the buildings erected thereon ; and in th of Broken Hill and other mining municipalities, this value is inc in the amounts set down in the above table.

The total revenue collected by all the municipalities of the c during the year 1895–6 amounted to £745,006, including the endowments and grants of £122,805. The chief heads of revenue as stated below. The grants for roads are shown separatel they are almost exclusively for the maintenance of Government passing through the municipalities. In "other rates" are include sanitary charges—where these are collected by the municipalit although they are not levied at so much per £, but represent fe direct services :—

Division.	General rates.	Other rates.	Endowments and Grants.	Road Grants.	Other Revenue.	T
	£	£	£	£	£	
Sydney—City	143,563	....	....	....	45,782	18
,, Suburbs	132,609	62,170	46,228	5,164	18,175	26
Country	104,676	60,561	54,044	17,369	54,665	29
Total	380,848	122,731	100,272	22,533	118,622	74

The general rates amounted to £380,848—1s. in the £ being the ger rate of all municipalities except the City of Sydney, which levied 1s. the municipalities of Darlington, Carcoar, Cooma, and Cudal, w the rate was 9d. ; and Lithgow, where a rate of 6d. only was struck. special rate is levied in the City, and in order to make the compar complete the cost of lighting and of street watering should be dedu from the general rates. The amount spent for the former service du 1895 was £13,602, or equal to nearly 1¼d. in the £ ; and on street wate £4,841, equal to ½d. in the £.

Other rates and charges—for lighting, water, and other services levied in many municipalities, and the receipts under this head amou in 1895–6 to £122,731. This sum does not include the proceeds of levied by the Metropolitan and Hunter District Water and Sewe Boards, and the water supplies of Campbelltown, Liverpool, and mond, which, though actually local rates, are not collected by the palities affected by them. The amount received from the sources spe during 1895–6 was £284,272, making, with the sum already mentio £407,003 as the total charge for these special services.

The endowments and grants amounted to 16·48 per cent. of the revenue, the sum being equivalent to 3s. 3¼d. per head of the total lation within incorporated areas, or to 18·81 per cent., or 3s.

head, excluding the inhabitants of the City of Sydney. The proportion which each source of revenue bears to the whole varies considerably, as the following statement shows:—

Division.	General Rates.	Other Rates.	Endowments and Grants.	Other Revenue.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Sydney—City	75·82	....	....	24·18
„ Suburbs	50·16	23·52	19·44	6·88
Country	35·93	20·79	24·52	18·76
Total	51·12	16·48	16·48	15·92

It will be seen from a previous table that the gross revenue of all municipalities, not including the State endowment, was £622,201 ; if to this be added the revenue of the Metropolitan and Hunter District Water and Sewerage Boards, the total will reach £906,473. This may be taken as the whole burthen of local taxation, and is equivalent to about 24s. 2d. per head of the population residing within the limits of incorporated districts, and to 11·92 per cent., or 2s. 4½d. in the £, of the total annual value of all ratable property, as against an average of 3s. 10d. levied in England and Wales, namely, 5s. 1d. in the Metropolitan, and 3s. 6d. in other districts. These amounts are there considered low, and are, in fact, far from representing the total of the municipal expenses, as, in the case of the provincial municipalities, large sums are contributed from the profits on the gas, water, and other undertakings so largely in their hands. In New South Wales, however, as already shown, the Government contributes largely to the cost of maintaining the municipalities.

In connection with the municipal accounts of the colony, it may here be explained that the returns furnished by the councils are not so accurate as might be desired, and the amounts of revenue and expenditure given must be taken as the nearest approximation that can be arrived at. It is possible that in some cases items of account, such as transfers and cross entries, which do not really affect the revenue or expenditure, are included, while, on the other hand, items which ought to be included are left out. These errors are gradually being rectified, as the accounts are now checked in the Statistical Office in a systematic fashion, as far as it is possible at the present time to do so. In making comparisons with previous years, however, it will be well to bear this in mind.

The total expenditure during 1895–6 by the various municipalities, including payments to sinking funds, amounted to £799,055, which was

£34,049 in excess of the revenue receipts. The municipal expenditure may be grouped under the following heads :—

Head of Expenditure.		Amount.	Per cent.
	£	£	
Salaries and office expenses	73,356		
Other expenditure on administration	27,692		
		101,048	12·97
General works, services, and improvements		340,338	43·68
Lighting		78,625	10·10
Water		18,679	2·40
Sanitary and other expenditure not defrayed out of general rate and endowments		62,040	7·96
Interest on loans and overdrafts		136,863	17·57
Payments to sinking funds		13,770	1·77
Miscellaneous		27,692	3·55
Total expenditure £		779,055	100·00

Valuers' and auditors' fees, legal expenses, and some other items which form part of the cost of administration, are entered in the municipal accounts under "Miscellaneous," of which amount they are estimated to make up one half. The totals of "Miscellaneous" have, therefore, been adjusted in the above and in the next three tables, in order to give a more correct statement of the proportion which each head bears to the whole. The total expenditure on sanitary services does not appear in the above table, as in many municipalities the fees are paid to the contractor.

The expenditure of the City of Sydney in 1895 reached the sum of £256,637, viz. :—

Head of Expenditure.		Amount.	Per cent.
	£	£	
Salaries and office expenses, including Mayor, £1,000, and auditors, £200	12,566		
Other expenditure on administration	5,684		
		18,250	7·11
General works, services, and improvements	......	152,984	59·61
Lighting	.. ...	13,602	5·30
Interest on loans	55,400		
Interest on overdraft	367		
		55,767	21·73
Sinking funds		10,350	4·03
Miscellaneous		5,684	2·22
Total expenditure £		256,637	100·00

enditure of the suburban boroughs and municipal districts r 1895-6 was £243,604, which may be subdivided under the ıeads :—

Head of Expenditure.		Amount.	Per cent.
	£	£	
office expenses	22,096		
diture on administration	9,848		
		31,944	13·11
ks, services, and improvements		95,020	39·00
		35,365	14·52
other expenditure not defrayed out of general endowments		24,994	10·26
oans and overdrafts		45,762	18·79
sinking funds		670	0·27
ıs		9,849	4·05
'otal expenditure		243,604	100·00

ıortional cost of administering these municipalities was nearly t of the city ; but when the smallness of some of the districts :d, the cost of administration cannot be deemed unreasonably

enditure of the country municipalities of the colony for the :278,814, which, divided under the same headings as those uburban municipalities, appears as follows :—

Head of Expenditure.		Amount.	Per cent.
	£	£	
office expenses	38,694		
liture on administration	12,160		
		50,854	18·24
ks, services, and improvements		92,334	33·12
		29,658	10·64
		18,544	6·65
other expenditure not defrayed out of general endowments		37,181	13·33
oans and overdrafts		35,334	12·67
sinking funds		2,750	0·99
s		12,159	4·36
otal expenditure		278,814	100·00

rtion to the total expenditure, the administrative expenses of ʀ municipalities amounted to nearly half as much again as e suburban boroughs. This may be accounted for by the ıe majority of the country boroughs and municipal districts, ;e in area, have but scant population and little revenue, and :ion of expenses required to defray salaries, etc., is naturally r than in the case of the smaller but more populous districts ; the metropolis.

The total amount of loans raised during 1895–6 was £94,467, and £96,127 was redeemed. If to the latter sum be added the amount by which the sinking funds were increased, it would appear that the amount unprovided for was reduced by £15,430 in the course of the year. Most of the new loans were mere renewals, opportunity naturally being taken of the general reduction in the rates of interest to considerably reduce, when practicable, the annual liability in respect of interest charges. The total amount of loans, not including the amounts due to the State under the Country Towns' Water and Sewerage Act, outstanding at the close of the year, was £2,585,235, and towards meeting this amount there was at the credit of the sinking funds a sum of £215,768, leaving £2,369,467 not provided for. The total amount authorised to be borrowed by the suburban and country municipalities was much greater than the amount actually raised. In some cases the full amount was not issued, and in others the secured overdraft was less than the amount of securities lodged with the bank. Rates of interest ranged from 4 per cent.—which was carried by £1,005,400—to 8 per cent., which, however, was only payable on £1,053; and the amount paid as interest on loans and overdrafts during the year was £136,863. Adding to the amount of loans the unsecured bank overdrafts, £120,440, on which rates vary from 6 to 8 per cent., a total of interest-bearing indebtedness of £2,705,675 is found, at an average rate of interest of 5·06 per cent.—viz., 4·43 per cent. on the loans of the City of Sydney; 6·28 per cent on those of the suburban municipalities; and 5·92 per cent. on those of the country municipalities. The total debt per head of population living in municipalities amounts to £3 12s. 3d., or, if allowance be made for sinking funds, £3 6s. 6d., while the yearly charge for interest is 3s. 8d. per head. These sums, viewed apart from the resources of the municipalities, are by no means formidable; but taken in connection with their general assets, the debts of municipalities will appear insignificant. The following are the outstanding loans of the City of Sydney at the close of 1895:—

Where floated.	Fund.	Amount.	Rate.	When due
		£	per cent.	
Sydney	City	20,000	6	*1901
,,	,,	10,000	6	*1903
,,	,,	10,000	6	*1904
London	,,	60,000	4	*1912
Sydney	Cattle Sale-yards	35,000	6	1902
London	Streets Loan	200,000	5	1904
,,	,,	100,000	4	*1912
Sydney	Town Hall Loan	40,000	6	1901
,,	,, ,,	35,000	6	1906
London	,, ,,	200,000	4	*1912
,,	Moore-street Improvement	250,000	4	*1913
,,	Public Markets	300,000	4	*1919
Total		£1,260,000		

Of the total debentures, £950,000 are renewable at maturity on the authority of the several Acts, the particular loans being denoted in the table by an asterisk. Sinking funds have been established in connection with most of the issues, the aggregate amount of which, at the end of 1895, was £208,154. In addition to the amounts quoted above, the City of Sydney was empowered in 1896 to raise a further sum of £150,000 towards the construction of the public markets, and also £250,000 for the purpose of providing electric lighting plant. Up to the end of 1896 the only addition made to the City loans was a sum of £75,000 received on account of the new public markets debentures, but of this amount £72,021 stood at the City's credit in the Union Bank. Sinking funds had increased by £18,306, and amounted to £226,460 on the 31st December, 1896. The outstanding loans of the other municipalities range from £69,400 to £353.

The subjoined statement indicates those municipalities which had contracted liabilities amounting to £5,000 and over at the beginning of 1896:—

Municipality.	Amount.	Municipality.	Amount.	Municipality.	Amount.
Metropolitan—	£	Metropolitan—*cont*	£	Country—*cont.*	£
City of Sydney ..	1,200,000	Strathfield	6,500	Lithgow	6,201
Alexandria	17,000	Waterloo	17,000	Liverpool	11,820
Annandale	11,875	Waverley	50,000	Maitland, East ..	6,000
Ashfield	15,300	Willoughby	15,000	Maitland, West..	23,000
Balmain	63,000	Woollahra	10,000	Merewether	6,000
Botany..........	5,000	Others (under £5,000)	19,433	Molong..........	5,100
Burwood........	25,000			Mudgee	5,000
Camperdown	17,000	Total, Metropolitan	1,988,235	Narrandera......	8,190
Canterbury	9,000			Newcastle	57,400
Drummoyne	5,000	Country—		Orange	24,459
Erskineville	10,000	Armidale........	18,750	Parramatta......	56,000
Five Dock	6,052	Bathurst	13,500	Penrith	23,000
Glebe	37,500	Bega	8,000	Prospect and Sherwood.	6,000
Hunters' Hill....	9,000	Bourke..........	7,500		
Hurstville	6,000	Bowral..........	11,979	Tamworth	5,000
Leichhardt	40,625	Broken Hill	5,500	Wagga Wagga ..	18,200
Manly	16,000	Cootamundra....	11,000	Waratah	15,500
Marrickville	30,000	Dubbo	15,000	Wickham........	17,100
Newtown........	36,000	Glen Innes	13,500	Windsor	6,500
North Sydney ..	63,150	Goulburn........	10,800	Wollongong	8,000
Paddington	69,400	Granville	16,200	Yass	7,500
Petersham	18,500	Hamilton........	8,300	Young	13,845
Randwick	29,000	Illawarra, Central	5,000	Others (under £5,000)	88,556
Redfern	38,900	Inverell	5,000		
Rockdale........	16,000	Katoomba	5,000	Total, Country	597,000
Ryde	6,000	Lambton........	11,500		
St. Peter's	10,000	Lismore	12,000	Grand Total..	2,585,235

Of the total amount, £1,369,659 was raised in London; £1,197,386 in Sydney or locally; and £18,190 in Victoria. If allowance be made for the £1,110,000 raised in London by the City Council, it will be seen that the other municipal authorities have relied chiefly on the colonial markets to subscribe to their loan issues.

Against its debt of £1,260,000 at the end of 1895 the City of Sydn possessed assets approximately amounting to £3,435,595, made up follows :—

	£
Value of made roads and streets, not including value of land.	1,476,585
Town Hall, including organ, furniture, etc.	699,658
Markets and land	815,645
Other buildings	119,175
Sale-yards	77,980
Plant, stores, and materials	5,643
Sinking funds	208,154
Fixed deposits and current bank balances	19,457
Outstanding rates	13,298
Total	£3,435,595

If to this sum be added the value of future rates, basing it on th latest assessment, and allowing twenty years' purchase, the total asse would be increased to £6,120,035; so that the loan indebtedness of th City of Sydney would amount to only 20·59 per cent. of the total asset or 27·13 per cent. of assets excluding made roads.

In addition to the current loans to the amount of £1,325,235, show in the table on page 999, the suburban and country municipalities wer on the 3rd February, 1896, also indebted for bank overdrafts to th amount of £78,482, and on contracts, etc., to a further amount £17,478, making a total indebtedness of £1,421,195, or nearly six time the amount of the general rate levied in 1896–7. Those municipaliti possessing water-works constructed by the State were also under a aggregate annual liability of £14,532, of which particulars will b found on page 1,002.

The assets of the suburban and country municipalities on the 3r February, 1896, were as follow :—

	£
Roads and streets, not including land	3,303,502
Town Halls, other buildings, and land	460,693
Water-works (constructed by Government) £401,466	....
Water-works (constructed without Government aid)	54,700
Gas-works and electric-lighting plant	217,924
Sale-yards	23,339
Wharfs	20,312
Sewerage works	72,857
Plant, stores, furniture, and material	44,904
Sinking funds	7,614
Fixed deposits and current bank balances	77,142
Outstanding rates	195,242
Government endowments accrued	11,973
Sundry accounts due	15,292
Total	£4,505,494

ounts due by one municipality to another for balances on tion, £6,282, are not taken into account in either of these state of assets and liabilities. Adding a sum of £4,857,380 on account nty years' purchase of annual general rates, the total assets would reased to £9,362,874.

total municipal indebtedness of the incorporated districts outside undaries of the city of Sydney would thus appear to be only 15·18 nt. of the total assets, or 23·45 per cent. of assets excluding roads. onsideration of municipalities as a whole, however, does not reveal ct that some are struggling under a load of debt which is well nigh portable.

amalgamation of the forty-one metropolitan municipalities is a on which has lately attracted some attention, and various schemes een suggested, some for the unification of these municipalities under ntral administration, leaving, perhaps, certain matters still to local rities, the number of which would be reduced; and others merely sing to unite two or three adjacent municipalities. It is not ble that any great reduction in the cost of administration would ected by such a unification, as the salaries at present paid are not avish scale; but there is no doubt that increased efficiency would ained, and the expenditure on works and improvements sensibly ed. Interest charges on loans, moreover, would be considerably ed. If the £728,235 owing by the suburban municipalities carried ate paid by the city of Sydney, a saving of £13,500 per annum be effected; and in view of the increased importance and more mical working of a Greater Sydney, a further reduction in the of future loans, either renewals or for fresh enterprises, might ably be expected.

Municipal Association of New South Wales was formed in 1883, tch over and protect the interests of the municipal bodies. In the ear there were 63 councils subscribing, while in 1897 the number 33. The Mayor of Sydney is president of the Association *ex officio.* e is given to, and legal opinions obtained for, the members on able points arising under the numerous municipal acts, and a al meeting is held annually in Sydney, usually in the month of mber.

WATER SUPPLY FOR COUNTRY TOWNS.

Country Towns' Water Supply and Sewerage Act of 1880 was with the object of assisting municipalities to construct general ns of water supply and sewerage. To the end of 1896, 28 municipal ils, including Richmond, had availed themselves of the privileges d as regards the former service; none, however, had profited by ovisions with respect to sewerage. The amount required for ng out the works is advanced by the State. The municipality, ver, has the option of supervising and constructing the works, which the Government undertakes these duties. Under the original Act the sum advanced was to be repaid by instalments, w interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on the unpaid balances, each ann instalment to be equal to 6 per cent. of the total cost, and the f payment to be made twelve months after the date of the transfer of works to the municipality. But as it was found that the municipali were unable to comply with these conditions, the Government, in 18 passed an amending Act which granted them more favourable ter the rate of interest being reduced to 3½ per cent., and the yearly rep ments fixed at a maximum of 100.

The following is a statement of the works completed at the 30th Ju 1897, with the amounts expended, and the sums payable annually the period of one hundred years, the first repayments having bec due at various dates ranging from the 31st December, 1892, to t 31st December, 1896. In the calculation of these repayments, t interest on the expenditure has been added, and any payments by t councils, as well as sums remitted under the authority of the Act, ha been deducted:—

Municipality.	Total Expenditure by the State.	Amount Payable Annually.	Municipality.	Total Expenditure by the State.	Amount Payable Annually.
	£	£		£	£
Manly	37,820	1,368	Jerilderie	6,405	196
Albury	45,186	1,483	Lismore	9,396	[illegible]
Balranald	7,963	217	Lithgow	12,068	[illegible]
Bathurst	53,876	1,989	Nowra	11,532	435
Bourke	14,336	486	Nyngan	10,731	325
Cootamundra	11,645	394	Orange	30,942	[illegible]
Deniliquin	18,168	668	Wagga Wagga	37,272	[illegible]
Dubbo	13,986	551	Wentworth	9,665	143
Forbes	8,013	288	Wilcannia	8,000	303
Goulburn	55,184	1,989			
Hay	7,072	278	Total	409,260	[illegible]

The Manly works are included in this table, as, although construct under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act of 1880, the mo favourable terms of the Country Towns Acts were granted in this ca

At Forbes, Hay, and Wilcannia, the works were constructed by t municipal authorities, and the expenditure shown in the table is n the actual cost of the works, but the Government valuation. Oth works than those shown above are in course of construction und the supervision of the Government, viz. :—

Municipality.	Expenditure to 30th June, 1897.	Municipality.	Expenditure 30th June, 1897.
	£		£
Armidale	37,521	Parkes	[illegible]
Coonamble	5,575	Tamworth	17,[illegible]
Junee	43,014		
Moama	6,507	Total	[illegible]
Moss Vale	15,040		

All these works, with the exception of those at Tamworth, have been completed during 1897, but up to December the total expenditure had not been gazetted.

Six municipal councils have constructed works out of their own resources. The amounts already expended are as under:—

Municipality.	Expenditure to 3rd February, 1896.	Municipality.	Expenditure to 3rd February, 1896.
	£		£
Narrandera	8,400	Singleton	500
Parramatta	30,600	Windsor	6,500
Penrith	9,000		
Silverton	300	Total	54,700

The water supply works of Broken Hill and Silverton were constructed by a private company under a special Act of Parliament passed in 1888.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

As previously mentioned, no advantage has been taken of the Act providing for the carrying out of sewerage works in country towns. It will be seen from the table given below, however, that sewerage systems are in existence in several districts; but with few exceptions the operations are on a minor scale. The general system of sewerage which is now being carried out in the metropolitan area will supersede the isolated systems of some of the suburban districts, and the works already constructed will eventually form part of the general scheme. The Metropolitan Board has already taken over the sewerage works constructed by the City of Sydney and the Municipalities of Ashfield (in part), Balmain, Darlington, and Redfern. The cost of other municipal works was as follows:—

Municipality.	Length.	Cost of Construction.	Municipality.	Length.	Cost of Construction.
	ms. chs.	£		ms. chs.	£
Annandale	3 6	2,334	Murrumburrah	0 2	90
Ashfield	1 16	6,004	Narrandera	0 25	250
Balmain	....	2,000	Newcastle	11 20	16,000
Burwood	0 56	2,400	Richmond	0 18	1,000
Camperdown	....	5,160	Singleton	1 0	1,000
Glebe	12 19	16,248	Stockton	0 15	182
Leichhardt	....	4,500	Wagga Wagga	....	534
North Sydney	8 0	5,000	Wentworth	0 20	165
Waterloo	....	4,000	Wickham	0 60	700
Waverley	1 60	3,230	Wilcannia	....	450
Willoughby	....	100			
Goulburn	....	1,420	Total		72,857

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING WORKS.

The Municipalities Act of 1867 authorises the construction of wo for public lighting, by gas or otherwise, and the Municipal Gas A of 1884 and 1886 give the power to provide private consumers w gas; but as regards electric lighting this cannot be done without thority of a special Act. The following statement shows the mun lities which have constructed gas-works, and the value of the sam bruary, 1896 :—

Municipality.	Value of Works.	Municipality.	Value of Works.
			£
Armidale	[illegible]	aitland, East	9,500
Bathurst	[illegible]	olong	4,500
Bega	[illegible]	uswellbrook	4,500
Bowral	[illegible]	range	13,000
Cootamundra	[illegible]	'agga Wagga	17,677
Dubbo	[illegible]	'aratah	10,035
Glen Innes	[illegible]	ass	7,500
Lismore	[illegible]		
Lithgow	[illegible]		
Liverpool	[illegible]	Total £	160,724

nilar information is given below of municipalities which h ed electric-lighting plant :—

Municipality.	Value of Plant.	Municipality.	Value of Plant.
	£		£
Redfern	19,000	Tamworth	3,200
Lambton	7,000	Young	9,000
Newcastle	10,000		
Penrith	9,000	Total £	57,200

As already mentioned, the City of Sydney lately obtained powers erect an electric-lighting plant, and to raise a loan of £250,000 this purpose. The following municipalities are supplied with elect light by private companies :—Canterbury (part of streets), Enfie Broken Hill (houses only), and Moss Vale.

STREETS AND LANES.

The length of streets and lanes within the boundaries of the City Sydney is 115 miles. Practically all the roadways are formed, kerb and either wood-blocked or metalled ; the area laid down of the form material to the end of 1896 was over 81 acres, exclusive of 20, square yards of wood-blocking laid by the Government at Circular Q The value to the city of these streets was estimated at £1 which sum includes £155,000 for footpaths, asphalted or

Throughout the suburbs the extent of roads and streets was about 1,485 miles, of which 788 miles were metalled, ballasted, or gravelled, 231 miles formed only, 223 miles cleared, and 243 miles natural surface; and the approximate value of these roadways, with culverts, bridges, and similar works, may be set down at £1,705,230. In the other municipalities there were 1,861 miles of metalled, ballasted, or gravelled roads, 1,173 formed only, 1,420 miles cleared, and 1,880 miles natural surface; in all 6,334 miles, the value of these improvements being about £1,598,270. In the above estimates of values, Government roads have not been included, nor is the value of land occupied taken into account.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

With the rapid aggregation of the population in the metropolitan area came the necessity of establishing a system of water supply and sewerage equal to the needs of a great city. Prior to 1887 the control of the water supply of the city and suburbs was in the hands of the City Corporation, and the supply was entirely inadequate to meet the demands upon it, while the sewerage system was highly objectionable and inefficient. Several of the suburban Councils had also constructed local systems, as already mentioned.

In 1867 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate and report upon proposals for supplying water to the city and suburbs. Two years later, after various projects had been considered, the Commissioners submitted a report recommending the adoption of the "Upper Nepean scheme." A second Royal Commission was appointed in 1875 to report on a sewerage scheme for the metropolis. The report of this Commission was presented in 1877, and forms the basis of the system now being carried out. As much controversy was evoked by the recommendations of these Commissions, the Government obtained the services of an engineer from England, and, after much patient investigation, he approved of the systems proposed and recommended them for adoption, and an Act was passed in 1880 to authorise the works being carried out. The first contract in connection with the construction of water supply works was undertaken in November, 1879, and that of sewerage in August, 1880.

In March, 1888, the water supply works had so far advanced that the Government passed an Act establishing a Board of Administration, under the title of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, to regulate the water supply and sewerage services in the county of Cumberland, including those under the control of the City Council. The management of the former service was transferred to the Board in May, 1888, and of the latter in September, 1889. The total length of water mains taken over was 355 miles, while on the 30th June, 1897, this had increased to 964 miles, exclusive of trunk mains. There were 70¼ miles of sewers in 1889, lengthened to 256 miles in 1897. The Board consists of seven members, three of whom are appointed by the Government, two by the City Council, and two by the suburban and country municipalities within the county of Cumberland which are supplied with water. The Board is subject to the general control of the Minister for Works—a provision which was considered necessary, as the Government were advancing the whole of the money for the construction of the works, the amount so advanced constituting part of the public debt of the colony.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

As early as 1850 authority was given by the Legislative Council to the City Corporation for the construction of water and sewerage works, and a system of water supply from the Lachlan, Bunnerong, and Botany Swamps was adopted. By this scheme the waters of the stream draining these swamps were intercepted at a point near the shore of Botany Bay. A pumping plant was erected here, and the water raised to Crown-street Reservoir, 141 feet above the level of the sea; thence the water was pumped into Paddington Reservoir, at an elevation of 214 feet above sea-level; and to Woollahra, 282 feet above sea-level. The cost of these works was £1,719,565. This system has since been superseded by what is known as the "Upper Nepean scheme" already referred to, which was designed and carried out by the late Mr. E. O. Moriarty, M.I.C.E. The works were made available in 1888, and have been found ample to provide a constant supply for the wants of the increasing population of Sydney and suburbs.

The sources of supply are the waters of the Nepean, Cataract, and Cordeaux Rivers, draining an area of 354 square miles, a catchment enjoying a copious and regular rainfall. The off-take works are built at a height of 437 feet above the level of the sea, and the water flows through a series of conduits—partly tunnel, partly open canal, and in places wrought-iron aqueducts—to Prospect Reservoir, a distance of 40 miles from the farthest source of supply. Here a storage reservoir has been constructed, covering an area, when full, of 1,261 acres, and capable of holding about 11,000 million gallons, of which nearly 7,000 millions are available for supply by gravitation. The top water-level is 195 feet above sea-level. The dam is 7,300 feet long, 30 feet wide on top, and is carried to a height of 84 feet at the centre; it contains some 2,591,950 cubic yards of earthwork, and its water face is covered with heavy bluestone pitching. The conduits above Prospect Reservoir have a capacity of 150 million gallons per day, and for 10 miles below this reservoir the capacity of the canals and pipes equals a maximum of 50 million gallons, while for the last 11 miles the pipes have a capacity of 17·5 million gallons daily. In this work there are :—

Tunnels	11⅜	miles.
Open canals	33¼	,,
Wrought-iron pipes, 8 ft., 7 ft. 6 in., and 6 ft. diameter	5⅝	,,
Cast-iron pipes, 48 in., 42 in., and 30 in. diameter	13	,,
Total	63¼	miles.

From Prospect the water flows 5 miles by open canal to the Pipe Head Basin, thence 5 miles by 6-feet wrought-iron pipes to the Potts' Hill Balance Reservoir, which has a capacity of 100 million gallons, and covers 24½ acres. This reservoir was designed to tide over any interruption in the supply from Prospect, as well as to prevent fluctuation at the head of pressure. The duplication of the 6-ft. pipe between the Basin and Potts' Hill, at a cost of £70,205, was recommended, in July, 1897, by the Public Works Committee, as also the raising of the sides of the canal between Prospect and the Basin, thus increasing its capacity to fifty-three and a half million gallons per day, at a cost of £39,112. At Potts' Hill the water passes through a series of copper-gauze screens, and is then conducted by two mains into Sydney. At Lewisham a bifurcation takes place in one of these mains; one branch supplying the Petersham Reservoir, the other continuing to Crown-street. The Petersham Reservoir is 166 feet above high-water mark, is built of brick, and has a capacity of 2,157,000 gallons. The new 48-in. main, laid in 1893, from Potts' Hill direct to Crown-street, is worked alternately with the old. These two trunk mains are connected at Petersham as an intermediate spot. The Crown-street Reservoir is 21 miles from Prospect. It is of brick and contains 3¼ million gallons, the top water-level being 141 feet above high-water mark. Owing to the topographical configuration of the reticulated area, pumping for the purpose of supplying the upper zones has largely to be resorted to, and no less than 3,088¾ million gallons, or nearly 50 per cent. of the whole supply, were thus raised during the twelve months ended June, 1897. At Crown-street is situated the main pumping station, where are erected three sets of compound high-duty pumping engines, viz., two Worthingtons, and one designed and erected by the Mort's Dock and Engineering Company. No. 1 Worthington is capable of raising 500,000 gallons per hour to the Paddington Reservoir, which is 73 feet above Crown-street, and is of 2,000,000 gallons capacity. No. 2 Worthington can raise 210,000 gallons per hour to the Woollahra Reservoir, 141 feet above Crown-street, and of 1,000,000 gallons capacity; or, if necessary, 200,000 gallons per hour to the Waverley Reservoir, which is 219 feet above the level of the pumps, and has a capacity of 1,087,000 gallons; besides supplying two supplemental tanks in Waverley Park, 20 feet higher, and containing 40,000 gallons. No. 3 (Mort's) is capable of raising 100,000 gallons per hour to the Waverley tanks. A new reservoir, of a capacity of 18,500,000 gallons, is being constructed in the Centennial Park, at a height of 245 feet, for the purpose of ensuring a larger bulk of water within the city limits. This, it is believed, will be the largest service tank in the Southern hemisphere. At Ashfield there is a 100,000 gallon wrought-iron tank at an elevation of 223 feet above sea-level. This tank is fed from the Woollahra Reservoir by the Petersham trunk main, and supplies the higher parts of the district.

North Sydney receives its supply from Potts' Hill, *viâ* Ryde, where there is a reservoir containing 2,116,000 gallons, from which the water reservoir has been constructed, for the purpose of interruption in the flow from the canal. Other dist Sydney, as Smithfield, Granville, Auburn, and Rookw plied *en route*; and at Smithfield there is a 100,00 tank, the top water of which is 175 feet above sea-level there are two tanks 270 feet above sea-level, one of whi of 1,000,000 gallons, and the other of 22,800 gallons. filled by a Worthington pumping plant at Carlton, wh power of 30,000 gallons per hour. The farthest po reached by the reticulation is Sandringham, distant Redfern Railway Station; so that the Sydney water range of 23 miles from north to south. The lengt exclusive of trunk mains, is 964 miles.

The total volume of water stored in the Potts' Hill reservoirs below it, is as under :—

South Sydney	100,614,000
North Sydney	6,156,000
Total	106,770,000

An analysis made by the Government Analyst in Ju that the water was perfectly suitable for all purposes supply; and this statement was confirmed by an inde made about the same time.

The number of houses connected with the metropoli on the 30th June, 1897, was 87,190, and the nu supplied, 418,512. The average daily consumption ended June, 1897, was 17,659,357 gallons, equivalen per house, and to 42·20 gallons per head of populatio latter quantity was 1·44 gallons in excess of the

The revenue from the Water Service Branch during the year ended 30th June, 1897, was £175,984, and the expenditure £188,221, of which £26,221 was for maintenance, £14,600 for management, £144,050 for interest on loans, and £3,350 depreciation account. These figures show an increase of £1,627 in the receipts as compared with 1896. In order to counterbalance the falling off in the municipal assessments, the water-rate was raised by 1d. in the £ from the 1st January, 1895, but a discount was allowed from the same date for prompt payment.

After allowing for loans and advances from Government to the amount of £3,782,168; the City Council Water Fund and Debentures, £462,382; rates overpaid, £582; and other liabilities, £70,152; and on the other side, for the value of the water supply works, lands, and buildings, reservoirs, and pumping plant, £4,265,621; the amount due for rates, etc., £34,090; for the value of stores, working plant, and tools, £25,306; and for other assets, £3,913;—the balance-sheet on the 30th June, 1897, showed a sum of £13,646 to the credit of the revenue account. The revenue for the twelve months ended June, 1897, showed a return of 3·11 per cent. on the actual capital debt of £4,244,550. The rates of interest payable are 3·79 per cent. on the loan expenditure by the State, and from 4 to 6 per cent. on municipal debentures taken over. The Board, however, do not debit their account with interest on the City Council Water Fund, £377,382, on the ground that this expenditure was made from rates contributed by the citizens, and they, therefore, show a return of 3·50 per cent. for the year 1896–7 instead of 3·11 per cent. set down below. The rates for the other years differ for the same reason. The Royal Commission which investigated the affairs of the Board has recommended that the Government should definitely determine the amount of the capital debt on which interest should be set aside.

The subjoined statement gives the transactions for each year during which the Board was in operation:—

Year.	Capital Cost.		Revenue.	Expenditure.	Houses supplied.	Population served.	Supply.	
	Amount.	Return per cent.					Daily (average).	Yearly.
	£		£	£	No.	No.	gallons.	gallons.
1888	3,004,557	1·68	125,486	83,482	61,718	296,246	8,144,169	2,972,621,623
1889	3,088,068	3·31	138,923	144,642	67,924	326,035	8,820,009	3,219,244,159
1890	3,189,080	3·48	145,990	147,310	71,501	343,204	8,486,034	3,097,402,486
1891	3,306,649	3·85	165,831	154,154	76,093	365,246	9,540,102	3,482,237,514
1892	3,394,581	3·26	155,886	161,825	78,926	378,885	12,129,152	4,439,273,890
1893	3,409,721	3·52	157,427	158,840	81,288	390,182	12,533,652	4,574,782,838
1894	3,440,614	3·54	161,167	160,706	83,621	401,380	13,738,874	5,014,689,009
*1895	4,078,979	1·60	85,364	91,852	....	....	16,645,014	9,194,922,372
1895–6	4,154,261	3·21	174,357	182,075	85,059	408,282		
1896–7	4,244,550	3·11	175,984	188,221	87,190	418,512	17,659,357	6,445,665,328

* Six months ended 30th June.

The amounts of the capital debt, 1895–6 and 1896–7, do include £32,341, the proportion of the cost of offices chargeable to Water Supply Branch, as the Board charge their working expenses rent on their new offices.

As already stated, the average daily supply of water to persons in metropolitan district during the year ended June, 1897, was 42·20 gall as against 40·76 gallons during the eighteen months ended June, 18 and 34·23 gallons in 1894. The Sydney average is contrasted be with the latest available averages of some other cities :—

City.	Average Daily Supply.	City.	Average Daily Supply.
	gallons.		gallons.
Sydney	42	Hobart.........	60
Melbourne ...	49	London	31
Auckland......	44	Berlin	13
Dunedin	64	Paris	36

The Hunter District Water Supply.

The water supply works of the Lower Hunter were constructed the Government, under the provisions of the Country Towns' Wat Supply and Sewerage Act of 1880. During 1892, under the authori of a special Act, a Board was established on similar lines to th of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, the number members also being the same—three being nominated by the Govern one elected by the Municipal Council of Newcastle, two by the adjace municipalities, and one by the municipalities of East and West Mai land and Morpeth. The following municipalities were proclaim within the area of the Board's jurisdiction :—Adamstown, Carringto Hamilton, Lambton, Lambton (New), East Maitland, West Maitlan Merewether, Morpeth, Newcastle, Plattsburg, Wallsend, Waratah, ar Wickham, besides the unincorporated townships of Minmi and Cock Creek.

The operations of the Board are at present entirely confined to wat supply, no sewerage works as yet having been attempted. Particula relating to the operations of the Board are given below :—

Year.	Capital Cost.		Revenue.	Expenditure, including Interest.	Houses Supplied.	Population Served.	Supply.	
	Amount.	Return per cent.					Daily (average).	Yearly.
	£		£	£	No.	No.	gallons.	gallons.
1892-3	404,407	3·52	22,651	22,551	3,421	17,105	451,005	164,616,8
1893-4	405,871	2·96	21,406	23,591	3,848	19,240	418,766	152,849,6
1894-5	412,732	2·75	20,367	23,467	4,660	23,300	518,038	189,084,0
1895-6	415,784	2·88	20,779	23,362	6,246	31,230	606,728	222,062,4
1896-7	428,025	3·16	22,518	23,984	6,931	34,655	731,451	266,979,3

By the Act of 1892, and an amending Act passed in 1894, the capital debt was to be liquidated by annual instalments distributed over 100 years, interest being reckoned at 3½ per cent. In November, 1897, however, a further amending Act was passed, abrogating the repayment of expenditure on "permanent works," and leaving the number of annual instalments in liquidation of the cost of "renewable works" to be fixed by the Government from year to year.

Evidence given before a Royal Commission which sat in 1897 showed that the Board estimated their deficiency on the working for five years at £26,700, without any provision having been made for the sinking funds prescribed by the previous Acts. It was urged by the Board that so much of the capital debt should be remitted as would bring down the amount of interest to such a sum as would be covered by the prospective revenue.

RICHMOND WATER SUPPLY.

The municipality of Richmond availed itself of the Country Towns' Water Supply and Sewerage Act, and carried out a scheme of water supply. The local Municipal Council administered the service until May, 1893, when it was temporarily transferred, pending the obtaining of legal powers, to the Metropolitan Board. As only the premises of those persons who signed an agreement to take the water can be rated, the revenue from the service is greatly restricted. The accounts are kept separate from those of the metropolitan supply. A small pumping plant was erected on the left bank of the Hawkesbury, just below the confluence of the Grose and the Nepean, as well as a circular brick tank having a capacity of 225,000 gallons, the top water being 206 feet above sea level. The capital cost of the service, together with the revenue and the liability against revenue, are shown hereunder:—

Year.	Capital Cost.	Annual Liability against Revenue.			Revenue.
		Interest at 4 per cent.	Maintenance (including proportion of head-office expenses).	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1893	12,340	494	315	809	400
1894	12,340	494	638	1,132	439
1895-6	12,480	746	707	1,453	884
1896-7	12,636	505	383	888	658

The figures shown for 1893 are for the seven months from 1st June to 31st December only, while those for 1895–6 cover the eighteen months from 1st January, 1895, to 30th June, 1896.

METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE WORKS.

The original sewerage works at Sydney were begun in 1854, and in 1889, the date of transfer to the Board, there were, as stated on a previous page, 70·27 miles of old city sewers in existence. All these old sewers are being gradually renovated and repaired, the cost being provided from revenue. The annual cost for maintenance is considerably lessened by these renovations. The works now being carried out will, when completed, drain the whole of the northern and southern slopes of the city and suburbs, discharging the sewerage of the former into the ocean between Bondi and South Head, and of the latter at a sewerage farm on the shores of Botany Bay. Owing to the neglect of the former lessee to undertake the necessary works this farm is now worked by the Board. During the twelve months ended June, 1897, the average daily flow of sewage on to the farm was 2,361,600 gallons, and the total quantity of silt removed from the screening chambers and deposited on the farm, 1,975 cubic yards. The two main outfalls have been completed, but the reticulation works in the suburbs will yet take some considerable time to construct before the whole area profits by the system. The subjoined statement gives the transactions for each year since the sewerage system has been under the control of the Board. The capital debt for the last two years is exclusive of £32,452, being a proportion of cost of the new offices of the Board, as the Board have debited their working expenses with rent on these new offices:—

Year.	Capital Cost.		Revenue.	Expenditure.	Houses connected.	Population served.	Length of Sewers.	Length of Storm-water drains.
	Amount.	Return per cent.						
	£		£	£	No.	No.	miles.	miles.
1890	1,281,045	3·82	81,800	67,026	22,765	109,272	122·03	3·15
1891	1,447,287	3·86	81,302	71,906	26,884	129,043	148·02	4·38
1892	1,606,948	3·77	87,927	79,543	31,402	150,729	172·94	6·62
1893	1,691,462	3·93	93,661	85,363	36,062	173,097	182·34	9·10
1894	1,745,120	3·72	93,134	89,237	39,965	191,832	201·95	9·82
1895*	1,831,611	1·56	43,110	46,605	......	......	......	...
1895-6	1,892,256	2·86	85,486	98,748	44,462	213,417	230·20	14·42
1896-7	2,018,120	2·82	87,652	101,994	47,593	228,446	255·76	18·41

* Six months ended June 30th.

During the twelve months ended June, 1897, 2,417 tons of silt were removed from the sewers, and the bulk of it deposited on Government reclamation works. About 3,530 cubic yards of deposit were also taken from the storm-water drains.

Up to the 30th June, 1897, there had been constructed 185·49 miles of new sewers, and 18·41 miles of storm-water drains, making, together with the old city sewers, a total of 274·17 miles of sewers and drains of which length 210·00 miles were ventilated, the aggregate length of the ventilating shafts erected being 99,397 feet. The number of houses connected and of population served at that date was 47,593 and 228,446 respectively.

The revenue of the Board from sewerage during the year ended June, 1897, was £87,652, chiefly from rates; and the expenditure £101,994, viz., £18,918 for maintenance, £10,763 for management, £71,328 for interest on loan capital and debentures taken over from the Municipal Councils, and £985 for depreciation. No interest, however, is debited by the Board to their account on £103,431 paid for sewerage works out of Consolidated Revenue. If this were done, the return per cent. yielded during the year would be 2·82, as shown in the above table, instead of 3·02 set down by the Board. A like difference exists in the return for previous years.

The funds necessary for the maintenance and management of the Water Supply and Sewerage services, as well as the sum required to pay interest on the capital debt, are obtained by rates levied on the properties situated in the districts benefited by the systems. The assessments of the Municipal Councils are generally accepted by the Boards as the values on which to strike their special rates. In cases of more than ordinary consumption of water, a charge is made according to the quantity used, while various fixed charges are imposed for the use of water in certain trades and callings, for gardens, and for the use of animals.

LOCAL OPTION.

In connection with local self-government, by means of the municipal system, occurs the only instance in which the principle of what is known as local option has been put into operation in the colony. For many years there was a strong agitation in favour of local option, or the right of the inhabitants of any district to control the liquor traffic in that district, and on several occasions unsuccessful attempts were made to legislate upon the subject. In the year 1882, however, an instalment of the principle was included in the Licensing Act then passed, which, with an amendment made in the following year, is still in force. These measures provide that in every municipality, or ward of a municipality, a local option vote shall be taken every three years, at the election for aldermen, in which the ratepayers are permitted to vote either "Yes" or "No" on two questions: (1) Whether any new publicans' licenses shall be granted during the coming three years in the municipality or ward in question; and (2) whether any removals of publicans' licenses shall be allowed within the same period. Over eleven-twentieths of the votes polled are required to make the vote operative in the negative. The advocates of local option are not content with this partial adoption of the principle; they urge its extension to every electorate in the colony, all persons on the electoral roll to have the right to vote. They further propose to place it in the power of a majority of the electors to say whether licensed public-houses shall be suffered to exist at all. The extreme advocates of local option also contend that women should have the right to vote upon this question as well as men, and that public-houses should be abolished without compensation to the occupants or owners. Although the local option vote is taken once in three years in every municipality, or ward of a municipality, the year when it is taken is not the same in all. During the three years 1895, 1896, and 1897, only 10,105 electors voted on the first, and 10,663 on the second question, in 222 country municipalities or wards of municipalities. In 162 cases the vote was against, and in 60 cases in favour of the granting of new licenses; while in 115 cases there was a majority in favour of, and in 107 cases against removals. The total number of electors on the municipal rolls in February, 1896, was 177,634; and allowing for the fact that a considerable number of these were for various reason disqualified from voting, the small number of votes recorded on the local option question shows, nevertheless, a remarkable apathy on the part of the persons entitled to vote. The results of the latest voting in 37 suburban municipalities, including 31 where the vote was taken in February, 1897, were that out of a total of 67,676 electors on the roll, only 9,595 voted on the question of new licenses, viz., 3,117 for, and 6,478 against; and 9,115 on the question of removals, viz., 3,630 for, and 5,485 against. In the city of Sydney a vote was taken on 1st December, 1897, when out of 22,428 voters on the roll, only 2,130 voted on the question of new licenses, viz., 787 in favour of, and 1,343 against; and 2,045 on the question of removals, viz., 903 in favour of, and 1,142 against. It would therefore appear that very little interest is taken in the matter except by the extreme advocates of temperance on the one hand, and those interested in the drink traffic on the other, while the general public is apathetic on the subject.

PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES.

It has always been the policy of the State to provide the residents of incorporated towns with parks and reserves for public recreation, and the City of Sydney contains within its boundaries an extent of parks, squares, and public gardens larger than exist in most of the great cities of the world without regard even to area. They cover altogether 747 acres, or 26 per cent. of the whole of the city proper. In addition to these reserves, the inhabitants of Sydney have the use of 530 acres, formerly reserved for the water supply of the city, but now known as the Centennial Park. This magnificent recreation ground has been cleared and planted, and is laid out with walks and drives, so that it is becoming a favourite resort of the citizens. The suburban municipalities are also well provided for, as they contain, including the Centennial Park, about 2,306 acres of public parks and reserves, dedicated to, and in some cases purchased for, the people by the Government, or about 2½ per cent. of their aggregate area.

In addition to these parks and reserves, there was dedicated to the people, in December, 1879, a large area of land, situated about 16 miles south of the metropolis, and accessible by railway. This estate, now known as the National Park, with the additions subsequently made in 1880 and 1883, contains a total area of 36,320 acres, surrounding the picturesque bay of Port Hacking, and extending in a southerly direction towards the mountainous district of Illawarra. It is covered with magnificent virgin forests; the scenery is charming, and its beauties attract thousands of visitors.

Another large tract of land, designated Ku-ring-gai Chase, was dedicated in December, 1894, for public use. The area of the Chase is 35,300 acres, and comprises portions of the parishes of Broken Bay, Cowan, Gordon, and South Colah. This park lies not more than 10 miles north of Sydney, and is accessible by railway to within 5 miles, or by water *viâ* the Hawkesbury River, several of whose creeks, notably Cowan Creek, intersect its forests. To the 30th June, 1897, grants to the amount of £1,450 were made to the trustees for improvements, and a further sum of £250 was paid in the following month.

In the country districts reserves, extending often over 1,000,000 acres, have been proclaimed as temporary commons, whilst considerable areas have been from time to time dedicated as permanent commons attached to inland townships, which are otherwise well provided with parks and reserves within their boundaries.

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Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1897.

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